

Crown Prince reviews plans to improve Anti-Corruption Directorate

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visited the Anti-Corruption Directorate of the General Intelligence Department. The Crown Prince was received by the department's Director General Samih Batkhi and by the directorate's head Samih Bino who briefed the Crown Prince on its achievements and activities. The Crown Prince stressed the important role the directorate is playing and discussed plans to improve its work.

Jordan Times

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On occasion of Army Day: public holiday next Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries and public departments will be closed on Tuesday, June 10, on the occasion of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

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Crown Prince and Saud Al Faisal discuss peace, means to cement bilateral relations

Saudi foreign minister lashes out at Israel for its intransigence

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, Wednesday ended a two day visit to the country which officials on both sides described as aimed at cementing bilateral ties between the two neighbouring states.

Prince Saud, who met His Majesty King Hussein and conveyed a message from King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan where the two sides stressed the need for exerting concerted efforts to push the peace process forward on all tracks.

In talks they held Wednesday, the Crown Prince and Prince Saud reviewed obstacles facing the peace process as well as efforts to overcome them.

Prince Hassan and Prince Saud expressed satisfaction with the "excellent and historic ties between the two countries" and discussed means of improving trade relations and exploring joint economic ventures. Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported.

Speaking to reporters following a 90-minute meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Prince Saud said the two sides discussed means to expand cooperation in the political, social and economic spheres adding that the two sides have also discussed "ways to

fortify relations from possible fluctuations that may arise in the future."

During his meeting with Dr. Majali, Jordan called on the Saudi government to facilitate the passage of Jordanian goods inside Saudi territories and remove obstacles hindering the flow of Jordanian agricultural products on its way to Saudi markets.

The Saudi side pledged to overcome those obstacles and suggested to establish a "joint committee that oversees the export of Jordanian agricultural products to Saudi Arabia."

The two sides also discussed Jordanian labour in Saudi Arabia and explored the possibility of increasing the presence of Jordanian labour in the kingdom.

Dr. Majali told reporters that the two sides agreed to intensify visits between senior officials, private and public sector executives in the two countries. Prince Saud said more official visits will take place in the near future.

Prince Saud described his talks with Jordanian officials as "deep, useful and comprehensive for bilateral relations between the two countries," adding that he agreed with Dr. Majali to raise the level of relations between the two neighbouring states to the level that "satisfy the aspirations of our leaderships in this regard."

The two sides emphasised that



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal, Saudi foreign minister, walking in for their talks Wednesday. (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

peace talks must lead to the fulfillment of Arab rights, especially the right of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

Prince Saud lashed out at Israel, blamed it for the deadlock in the peace process and asserted that Arabs have extended all their efforts to reach a breakthrough to

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Arafat, Moratinos study peace options in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the European Union (EU) special envoy for the Middle East Miguel Angel Moratinos were in Egypt Wednesday for talks with officials on ways to restart the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Mr. Moratinos preceded Mr. Arafat into a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after arriving here late Tuesday from Israel where he said he expected a "breakthrough" after talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders.

A less optimistic Arafat flew in at dawn Wednesday from Harare where he had

reiterated Palestinian "commitment" for the peace process on the sidelines of a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

But in statements published Wednesday by the Arab newspaper Al Hayat, Mr. Arafat warned that the peace process had reached a "dead-end" and accused Israel of violating 34 points of the peace accords between the two sides.

"The policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have closed everything in the face of peace and until now I don't see any positive sign from him or any hope," Mr. Arafat told Al Hayat.

"Netanyahu has clearly violated the peace accord ... 34 violations including some on essential issues such as the Judaisation of Jerusalem, the confiscation of land and the building of settlements," Mr. Arafat said.

Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have been frozen since Israel began on March 18 the construction of a new Jewish settlement in occupied Arab east Jerusalem.

Egypt began contacts with Israel and the Palestinians a week ago in an effort to

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Palestinians angry over plan to cut Jerusalem schools' autonomy

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The Palestinian legislative council on Wednesday condemned a plan by Jerusalem's mayor to rescind the long-standing autonomy of the city's Palestinian schools.

"These measures are part of the Israeli attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and decide its future before the start of negotiations on the permanent status" of the city, council speaker Ahmed Qureia said.

"This is a death warrant to all the agreements we signed with Israel."

After Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967, Arab schools in the eastern part of the city continued to follow the Jordanian curriculum, with some

minor changes and with little intervention from Israel. But Israel claims the curriculum has in recent years come under the influence of the Palestinian National Authority, which is not supposed to have jurisdiction in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said Tuesday that he would form a committee to make the curriculum in the city's Palestinian schools conform to that of Arab schools inside Israel.

Mr. Olmert also said he would make sure that PNA inspectors stayed away from matriculation exams in the city's Arab high schools, which begin in two weeks. About 2,000 seniors

are scheduled to take the exams.

Palestinian students in Jerusalem currently can choose whether to take the Jordanian or Israeli matriculation exam, but some legislators feared students would not be allowed to take the Jordanian exams at all.

"We are not calling students to declare a war, but we are telling them to go and do their exams as they used to before," Mr. Qureia said.

If they aren't allowed to take the exam in their classrooms, he said, they should do it in the playgrounds, or the soccer fields, or the grounds of the Al Aqsa mosque.

Turkish army helicopter crash in Iraq kills eleven

DIYARBAKIR (R) — A Turkish helicopter crashed Wednesday on a mission against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, killing 11 military personnel, security officials said. Officials from the emergency rule governor's office in the southeast Turkish city of Diyarbakir said the helicopter crashed in the mountainous Zap region at 7 a.m.

At least 10,000 Turkish troops backed by air power poured into northern Iraq on May 14 in pursuit of separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels who use the region as a base to launch raids into southeast Turkey.

Pro-Kurdish MED-TV said Tuesday there was heavy fighting in northern Iraq with the PKK launching counterattacks against the Turkish army and their Iraqi Kurdish allies, retaking a strategic mountain peak from the army.

A Turkish military spokesman said the Turkish forces had killed more than 2,000 rebels in the operation so far, but did not give figures

for government losses. The rebels say they have killed 791 men from the opposite side — Turkish soldiers, their allies in a "village guard" militia and guerrillas of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party. The operation has been conducted under a strict news blackout, making independent confirmation of the report impossible.

The incursion has attracted condemnation from the Arab League secretary and a demand that Turkish forces withdraw immediately. NATO-member Turkey's Western allies and the United Nations secretary general have criticised the operation.

A leading PKK member this week threatened worldwide attacks against Israeli and U.S. targets if the two countries continued to "support Turkish massacres against Kurds".

More than 24,000 people have died in 13 years of conflict between the Turkish security forces and the PKK, who are fighting for autonomy for the mainly Kurdish southeast of Turkey.

PNA warns Israel not to attempt arrests on land dealer killings

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A senior Palestinian official warned Israel Wednesday not to carry out the threatened arrest of Palestinian officials accused of involvement in the recent murders of Arabs who sold land to Jews.

"We would consider the arrest of any Palestinian official as an aggression against the Palestinian National Authority itself," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, secretary-general of the self-rule government.

"We warn the Israeli government against taking irresponsible actions, because they could lead to an escalation of tensions and an explosion," he told AFP.

"Palestinian security forces have clear orders to respond to any attempt to destabilise the security of the Palestinians and Palestinian territories," he added.

Tuesday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that police had issued an arrest warrant for an unnamed Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

official implicated in the gangland-style slayings of three Arab land dealers last month.

"We intend to arrest him as soon as he leaves the area of the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Mr. Netanyahu accused Palestinian security apparatus of direct responsibility for the killings, which came after senior PNA officials announced that Arabs who sell occupied land to Jews faced the death penalty. The PNA has denied any role in the killings.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz said the arrest warrant targeted a security officer in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank town of Ramallah, where the bodies of all three land dealers were found.

Israel has prepared further warrants, notably for the chief of the Palestinian intelligence service in the West Bank, Brigadier General Tawfik Tirawi, but Mr. Netanyahu has not yet authorised their formal issue for

fear of worsening the crisis with the PNA, Haaretz said.

Mr. Abdul Rahim warned that any arrest of PNA officials or attempt to enter self-rule areas to carry out such arrests would be viewed as a violation of signed peace agreements and "an attack on the sovereignty of Palestinian areas."

"We warn Netanyahu's government not to play with fire ... we will take all necessary measures to protect our officials and territory," he said.

Palestinian officials have rejected all accusations that the self-rule government's security forces were behind the recent murders.

But they have been uncompromising in their condemnation of the sale of occupied land to Jews which they view as fatally undermining their goal of establishing a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials say they plan to prosecute all Arabs involved in such land sales.

Israeli army, Hizbollah clash after bomb blast kills civilian

TYRE (AFP) — Israeli army troops and Hizbollah guerrillas exchanged artillery and rocket fire Wednesday after a Lebanese civilian was killed by a remote-controlled bomb in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

One Lebanese civilian was killed and one wounded when four explosive charges blew up simultaneously on a road linking the villages of Zillaya and Qilya in the Bekaa Valley, on the edge of the Israeli-occupied border zone, they said.

A Lebanese army officer told AFP that Issa Qassem Issa was killed and Ali Mahmud Musa wounded

by the blasts which destroyed their vehicle Wednesday.

The Voice of the South Radio Station, run by Israel's allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, confirmed the blasts but did not say who was suspected to have carried them out. A Lebanese army unit filmed the scene of the explosion.

An hour after the attack, Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas fired 15 Katyusha rockets into the Israeli-occupied zone and mortar rounds at Israeli positions at Kawkaba and Tounat-Niha, police said.

Israeli artillery retaliated by firing some 60 shells at the villages of Zillaya and

Qilya, they said.

The Lebanese army also opened fire with anti-aircraft guns on two Israeli helicopters which were hovering at low altitude near the coast of the port of Sidon, security sources said. The gunships were forced to clear the area.

A spokesman for Hizbollah, which spearheads a guerrilla war to force Israel from southern Lebanon, accused Israeli troops in the nearby hilltop position of Kawkaba of triggering the devices which killed the Lebanese civilian.

"This attempt on our civilians is a clear violation of the April 26 accord," he

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Jordanians rate democracy at middle of road, losing faith in press — poll

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians believe they are only half-way towards full democracy and appear to be reading newspapers much less than they did last year, according to an opinion poll released Wednesday.

The poll conducted annually by the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, showed that Jordanians have hardly changed their opinions about the democratisation process in the Kingdom, are still hesitant to join political parties, and are losing faith in daily and weekly newspapers and columnists.

On a scale of one to ten, respondents rated the country's democracy at 4.88, a

slight improvement from 1993 figure of 4.58, with one indicating that the country is at the beginning of the road towards democracy and ten meaning that Jordan fully practised democratic rule.

Assessing Jordan's democracy based on the results, one analyst said the nascent nature of institutions contributed to the slow progress of democratisation which began in 1989.

"It is doubtful democracy will move forward as people had expected in 1989," he said. "To have democracy, the country needs institutions that people would feel represent them and can affect their lives."

The poll, which measures trends in democratisation, attitude towards political parties, levels of primordial

participation (tribes) and modern participation (parties, trade unions, clubs) and the effect of the media, showed for the fourth consecutive year that tribal considerations were the most important factor determining voting patterns.

The 1997 poll was very consistent with the centre's polls over the last four years suggesting that little had changed in people's perceptions and affiliations.

While respondents said there was improvement in personal freedoms, including the right to protest and join parties, they were not satisfied with the Lower House of Parliament's overall performance.

This year's poll showed a slight increase in the number of those who were unhappy with the present

Parliament's performance over last year's figures—32.4 per cent compared with 28.3 per cent.

Nearly 57 per cent of respondents said that deputies' abilities to influence legislation was insufficient, while another 23.7 per cent said they had no opinion. Only 19.3 per cent said that the parliamentarians' performance was satisfactory.

The deputies' ability to question the government on issues and policies was considered unsatisfactory by 56.6 per cent of those polled compared with 25.6 per cent of respondents who said they were satisfied. Nearly 23 per cent said they had no opinion.

Over 31 per cent said that the performance of Deputy Toujan Faisal, the only female deputy in the 80-

seat house, was better than her male counterparts. Nearly 34 per cent said participation of women in government was effective while 45.1 per cent did not know the extent of their effectiveness. Slightly over 20 per cent of those polled said Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf outperformed her colleagues in the Cabinet.

Participation in political parties remained very low despite the legalisation of political parties in 1993 and efforts by parties to recruit members. Nearly 98 per cent said they have never joined a party at any time. Almost 50 per cent said the reason they have not joined was due to political parties' lack of clear influence on issues.

While the Islamic Action Front, which holds 14 seats

in Parliament, remained the largest and most recognised party in the country, its popularity declined in the last three years with 5.8 per cent respondents saying the party represented their aspirations compared with 7.75 per cent in 1996 and 11.42 in 1995.

A mere 5.9 per cent recognised the name of the National Constitutional Party, the newly-formed body, grouping nine centrist parties. However, in terms of popularity the nine grouped together were second to the IAF in popularity.

The poll, conducted from May 19-26, indicated that out of the 48.1 per cent of those who cast their vote in the 1993 elections, 63.4 per cent were planning to vote in the 1997 polls. Over 50 per cent of women and

men polled said they supported the one-person, one-vote system.

In this year's elections, 31.4 per cent of respondents said they would vote for the candidate they chose in the 1993 polls compared to 22.2 per cent who said they would vote for another aspirant. Nearly 12 per cent said they would not vote for any of the 1993 candidates.

When they do vote, 50.5 per cent said they would choose their candidate based on personal considerations compared to 5.5 per cent based on party affiliation.

An analyst involved in conducting the poll said the issue of lifting bread subsidies, which many had expected to be a determining factor in the elections, was not mentioned by respondents, suggesting

that there was wide acceptance of the compensation scheme that accompanied the decision taken by the last government.

The only surprise in the poll was the sharp decline in the readership of the daily newspapers, daily newspaper columnists and the weekly press. According to the poll, readership was 53.3 per cent in 1996 compared with 34.2 per cent in 1997.

Columnists' readership dropped from 19.8 per cent in 1996 to 8.4 per cent in 1997, the poll showed. Weekly newspapers, which were the target of the government's new more restrictive Press and Publications Law, also witnessed a drop in readership from 38.5 per cent in 1996 to 16.9 per cent in 1997.

Arafat condemns Israeli plans to keep hold of West Bank

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat hit out at plans outlined by Israel Wednesday to keep control of east Jerusalem and most of the West Bank in a final peace settlement.

"It's absolutely against the peace process and against the (autonomy) accords," Mr. Arafat said on returning from Egypt where he had talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting Wednesday that the entire Jordan Valley, Bethlehem area settlements and greater Jerusalem, which includes several West Bank settlements, were expected to remain under Israeli control.

The prime minister also

intends to maintain Israeli control over several groups of West Bank settlements, and over main roads in areas considered "vital," water resources and areas near the Israeli border, officials in Mr. Netanyahu's office said.

Ahmad Tibi, an Arafat advisor, said Mr. Netanyahu's proposals "are not ideas for achieving peace but for causing war."

"Peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be reached by establishing a Palestinian state in all the territories occupied in 1967," he said in a statement, referring to the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

"His ideas could be good for negotiations between Mr. Netanyahu and the (Jewish) settlers, but they are not a

basis for peace," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu recently proposed accelerating talks on the territories' final status in an attempt to try to unlock negotiations with the Palestinians, frozen since work began March 18 on a new Jewish housing project in disputed east Jerusalem.

The Haaretz newspaper said May 29 that Mr. Netanyahu planned to offer the Palestinians 40 per cent of the West Bank as part of a final peace settlement.

The newspaper published a "secret" map attributed to Mr. Netanyahu which called for 60 per cent of the West Bank to remain under Israeli control or be annexed. The Jewish state would also retain control over east Jerusalem.

Under the autonomy

accords, the Palestinians have only gained complete control over 3 per cent of the West Bank including eight cities, and 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the final status of the territories — which must be implemented after the interim period of autonomy ends in 1999 — formally began last year before Mr. Netanyahu's election.

However, they have not been resumed.

The final status talks are to cover the borders of the future Palestinian entity, the possible creation of a Palestinian state, east Jerusalem, the future of the Israeli settlements and the fate of Palestinian refugees.



Israeli peace activists march on Wednesday in Arab east Jerusalem overlooking the site of a new Jewish settlement shouting Jerusalem is not united because east Jerusalem is occupied. Demonstrators carried signs calling for a halt to building of a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem (Reuters photo)

Report: Syria held war drills

TEL AVIV (AP) — Syria's army has staged manoeuvres in recent days in preparation for a possible war with Israel, an Israeli TV station reported Tuesday.

Channel 2 TV said that the training brought Syria to a high stage of preparedness and enabled its forces to stage a land-grab on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on a very short notice.

The report gave no further details, and no official confirmation was immediately available.

Despite the tensions, there have been reports recently that Syria was striving to renew peace talks frozen since early 1996.

Israeli reports have said Syria transmitted a message to Israel last weekend saying that it understood the extent of any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan must be negotiated with the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

In the past, Syria claimed that when its negotiations with Israel's previous Labour government broke off, the sides had in effect agreed to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Mr. Netanyahu, who was elected Israel's prime minister last May, has opposed a total pullout from the strategic plateau which Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Barak's victory a defeat for peace process — Hamas

AMMAN (AFP) — The Palestinian resistance group Hamas on Wednesday denounced the election of former army chief Ehud Barak as head of Israel's opposition Labour Party describing it as a defeat for the peace process.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, Amman-based spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said Mr. Barak's election was a "new defeat for the Oslo accords" between the Israelis and

Palestinians. He noted that Mr. Barak, a member of the right-wing of the Israeli opposition party, had defeated Yossi Beilin, an architect of the Oslo peace accords, in the race to replace former Prime Minister Shimon Peres as Labour leader.

In a reference to Mr. Barak and Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Ghosheh said he expected a "fiercer fight between two hawks" which

will affect the peace process.

Mr. Barak, Israel's most decorated soldier and a former armed forces chief of staff, easily won Thursday's election to replace Mr. Peres. A member of the Hamas politburo, Mohammad Nazzari, reiterated Tuesday the group's commitment to armed struggle against Israel and its opposition to the peace deals between President Yasser Arafat and the Jewish state.

Rare French business mission in Libya

TUNIS (R) — A French business mission is in Libya for talks with Libyan officials and businessmen on boosting economic cooperation between the two countries and to look at prospects for implementing Libyan strategic projects, Libyan state-run television reported Tuesday night.

The mission, which includes "the biggest French industrial firms and agencies," started talks on Tuesday with a meeting attended by Libyan Planning, Economy and Trade

Minister Abdul Hafidh Zlitni and France's envoy in Tripoli, the television, monitored in Tunis, said.

French reports earlier said that the mission was the biggest for a dozen years, and that the initiative had come from the French business organisations Conseil National du Patronat Français (CNPF), Chambre de Commerce Franco-Arabe and Chambre de Commerce Franco-Libyenne.

The television quoted the French mission's head as reaffirming his "country's

hope to reinforce and boost ties with Libya in the economic, trade, tourism and investments fields."

It said six joint specialised committees had been formed, and started talks on housing and public works, finance, banking and insurance, health and social security, energy, industry and building materials.

The mission is also to hold talks with Libyan economic operators and visit plants in the country, it added.

Lebanon charges 2 opposition union chiefs with defaming state

BEIRUT (AP) — An investigating justice on Wednesday charged a labour leader with defaming the country and ordered his deputy detained on the same charge.

Elias Abu Rizk, an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, was arrested Friday after he refused to step down as head of the 350,000-strong General Confederation of Labour Trade Unions.

He refused to give up leadership of the federation on grounds April elections

were rigged by the government in favour of a pro-government candidate.

Mr. Abu Rizk was charged by Judge Abdullah Bitar with defaming the country by writing to the International Labour Organisation and alleging he had received death threats.

The judge also interrogated Mr. Abu Rizk's deputy, Yassir Naameh, about the complaint to the ILO and later charged Mr. Naameh, too, with defamation and ordered him held for inter-

rogation.

Conviction for defaming the country is punishable by up to three years in jail.

The arrest of Mr. Abu Rizk, a vociferous critic of the government's economic policies, has angered the opposition. They see it as the start of a new crackdown on groups opposed to Mr. Hariri and part of government efforts to limit public freedoms.

Mr. Abu Rizk has challenged the validity of the union election in April that saw his rival, pro-govern-

ment Ghanim Zogbi, named head of the federation.

When Mr. Abu Rizk refused to stand down, Mr. Zogbi sued him for misrepresentation and usurpation of authority, which led to Mr. Abu Rizk's arrest.

Although Lebanon's labour ministry has certified Mr. Zogbi as winner in the elections, some international labour groups still recognise Mr. Abu Rizk as the labour federation's head.

Mr. Abu Rizk also is head of the union of employees

at the state-run television, and Mr. Naameh is general manager at the leftist Al Safir newspaper.

Although in custody, Mr. Abu Rizk has spent just one night in jail. He's been in hospital on advice of physicians who said he was suffering from high blood pressure and irregular heart beat.

Under Mr. Abu Rizk, Lebanese unions staged nationwide strikes and demonstrations over the past three years for more pay and benefits.

THANK YOU Lt. Gen. Suleiman Iteimeh

and his family would like to express their most sincere gratitude and appreciation to

Professor Dr. David Barrett

from Mayo Clinic - Minnesota - USA

who is visiting Jordan for his kind efforts and the generosity of his valuable time on our behalf.

Our thanks also goes to

Lt. Gen. Dr. Yousef Quosous

Gen. Dr. Faisal Musa

Gen. Dr. Nabil Hadad

and to every single member of our Royal Medical Corp.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 Live From Paris — French Open
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Step By Step
20:00 World Echo
20:30 New Talk Show: The Oprah Winfrey Show
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:35 Feature Film — "Disaster at Valdez"
23:59 Taratata

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:15 Asr
19:43 Maghreb
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drop slightly during the week-end. It will be mild and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Yousef Rashid 875792
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 788948
Dr. Khalil Jbali 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Tr'ammeh 250080

Al Quds pharmacy (—) ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200
HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akhlel Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/36
Arzy, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08/53250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:20 Moscow (RJ)
11:35 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
21:00 Dubai, Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Larnaca (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:25 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
13:55 Doha (GF)
14:40 Sharjah (AH)
16:00 Rome (AZ)
17:00 Dubai (EK)
19:50 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:35 Cairo (MS)
01:20 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
05:40 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:20 Moscow (RJ)
11:35 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
21:00 Dubai, Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Larnaca (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:25 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights
04:00 Athens (OA)
06:15 Istanbul (TK)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:10 London (BA)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30 Ammaba (Algeria) (AF)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:00 Damascus, Dubai (EK)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
22:25 Cairo (MS)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
10:25 London (BA)

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday tours the Salt handicraft exhibition at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Jordan Design and Trade Centre showroom (Petra photo)

Queen, Minnesota delegation visit Salt exhibition at NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday met with the Attorney General of the State of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey and an accompanying delegation of businesspersons at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), where they toured the Salt handicraft exhibition at the NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre showroom, a Royal Court statement said.

The exhibition, which features the products of the NHF Salt Handicrafts Centre, includes a wide variety of hand-made home fur-

nishing including tiled tables, bed throws, linens, silk screened fabrics, Nabataean pottery and glazed ceramic tiles.

The exhibition will run until June 15.

The Salt Handicraft Training Centre, which was established by the NHF in April 1987 in cooperation with the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) and the Italian government, offers free three-year vocational training programmes in weaving, ceramics, silk screening, decoration and clay production as well as courses for the public and

an in-service programme for vocational trainers.

The Salt Centre also offers courses in basic sciences, management, marketing, accounting, history of art, design, applied sciences, Arabic and English.

It is in the process of establishing a production unit that will take commercial orders and complement instruction at the school so that students become market-oriented.

The centre works in close cooperation with the Jordan Design and Trade Centre on marketing and product development.

UNDP to release 1997 Human Development Report Princess Basma to attend global launch in Bonn

AMMAN (J.T.) — Focusing on the theme of poverty, the 1997 Human Development Report will be released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) next Thursday, June 12, 1997 at the Royal Cultural Centre, a UNDP statement said.

The official ceremony in Jordan has been planned to coincide with the global launch of the report in Bonn, Germany. According to the statement, the launch will be attended by HRH Princess Basma in her capacity as Human Development Ambassador of UNDP.

The Human Development Report, published annually by UNDP in cooperation with an international team of prominent development experts, carefully examines living standards in more than 170 developing and industrialised countries, the statement said.

In the past, human development reports have issued stark warnings on the plight of the poor and guided policy makers with plans of action to address their problems.

Every year, the widely-read publication stirs a lively debate in development circles and among governments with its ranking of countries, according to the Human Development Index (HDI).

Derived from a basket of socio-economic indicators which includes life expectancy, literacy rate and per capita income, the HDI reflects the quality of life in each country. Last year, Jordan ranked 70 out of 174 countries, and was classified as "medium human development" along with its neighbours such as Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.

The report's focus on poverty this year is expected to add momentum to UNDP's country programmes which place overriding priority on assisting the most vulnerable groups of society.

According to UNDP Administrator James Gustav Speth, the U.N.'s largest grant provider spends 90 per cent of its core resources in countries with 90 per cent of the world's poorest people.

In Jordan, where an estimated 15 per cent of the population live below the poverty line, UNDP is providing technical assistance as well as financing certain components of the government's Social Productivity Programme aimed at alleviating poverty.

The 1997 report has been placed under tight embargo by UNDP after a New York Times correspondent published the findings of last year's report prior to its official date of release.

Soldiers testify Dakamseh had deviant tendencies Judge expels defendant for outbursts

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a five-hour court session that was interrupted by an outburst by Ahmad Dakamseh, the Jordanian soldier standing trial for the murders of seven Israeli schoolgirls in March, four soldiers testifying for the prosecution all said the defendant had deviant sexual tendencies.

As soon as the first witness, Corporal Yousef Mohammad, took the stand and started his testimony, Corp. Dakamseh started yelling that he was a liar.

Presiding Judge Brigadier General Ma'moun Khasawneh ordered Corp. Dakamseh expelled from the courtroom. When Corp. Dakamseh resisted, four security soldiers attempted to subdue him.

The defendant clung to the metal bars of the cage in which he was confined, refusing to leave.

A fifth security soldier climbed over the top of the cage and forced Corp. Dakamseh out.

During the altercation, Dakamseh family members stood up and protested, shouting "God is great."

Four members of the family were summarily removed from the courtroom by security officers.

The witness for the prosecution, Corp. Moham-

mad, continued his testimony without the presence of the defendant and stated that Corp. Dakamseh was known among his army division for "always talking about sex."

The defendant was later allowed back into the courtroom for the cross-examination of Corp. Moham-

mad.

Another witness, First Sergeant Salah Ahmad Nahar, told the court tribunal that Corp. Dakamseh had asked him about his private relations with his wife. "Then told me that he had had no intimate relations with his own wife for one month," the sergeant said.

According to the witness, on the day of the shooting incident, Corp. Dakamseh had made a rude remark about the Israeli schoolgirls while sitting in an army jeep when the girls had descended from their bus.

"Ahmad then asked me to leave the military jeep..." the sergeant told the court.

"A minute later I heard gunshots being fired and I looked and saw him shooting at the Israeli girls," the sergeant said.

The third witness, Corp. Mohammad Abdullah Hasan, 26, testified that Corp. Dakamseh told him on the day of the incident that "today you will see some-

thing you have never seen before and there will be chaos."

"I asked Ahmad what he meant and he refused to tell me, and later on I learned that he had shot the Israeli schoolgirls," the witness said.

Corp. Hassan also said the defendant told his army division colleagues shortly after the shooting incident: "You are all cowards and you should have done what I did."

Corp. Hassan and Sgt. Nahar both testified that the Israeli schoolgirls wore uniforms, contradicting with Corp. Mohammad's testimony that their clothes were of varied colours.

The three witnesses all confirmed that Corp. Dakamseh performed his prayers, and that he actually did pray on the morning of the shooting, contradicting two of three witnesses who Monday testified that they never saw the defendant praying.

A fourth witness, Private Mohammad Shahadeh, 23, testified that he was in charge of the store room for rifles and ammunition, and that he handed Corp. Dakamseh an M16 rifle on the morning of the incident.

The court postponed the case to June 7 when it will hear more prosecution witnesses.

Senior U.N. official stresses value of organisation's role to peace process

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations (U.N.) Assistant Secretary General Alvaro de Soto warned against the "grave consequences" of the financial deficit of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and said the Israeli policy of expanding Jewish settlements in Arab areas is a central issue at the current stage of the peace negotiations.

Participating in the first international leadership programme launched here by the United Nations University (UNU), Mr. de Soto said not much can be done to solve the increasing financial crisis facing UNRWA, except to continue to ring the "alarm bell."

"I truly hope donor countries will realise that the situation in areas where UNRWA operates is still volatile, and the consequences of not financing UNRWA activities could be very, very grave indeed," he told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Vis-a-vis the \$50 million projected deficit for 1997, which threatens to reduce or even suspend some of the services, the agency provides to more than 2.1 million Palestinian refugees, "there is little to be done, except for continuing, as UNRWA Commissioner-General Peter Hansen is doing, to sound the alarm," Mr. de Soto said.

Stressing that the U.N. role in the Middle East should be recognized and supported, he said that though the United Nations is not one of the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli peace process as shaped in the 1991 Madrid Conference, it does play a "great role" in assisting Palestinian refugees

and maintaining peacekeeping troops in the region.

Referring to the U.S. veto of a Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli government's decision to build a Jewish settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim, Arab east Jerusalem, two months ago, Mr. de Soto said "the veto system is incorporated in the U.N. Charter, and I feel it would be of little practical use for me to make a value judgement on it."

"Some say that if there were no veto power for some members, the U.N. would have never come into being," he noted, but maintained that Israel's settlement policies are "the main issue, at the moment," to be addressed in order to put peace negotiations back on track.

"As undemocratic as it might seem," he continued, the veto power for the permanent members of the Security Council, "has been accepted by all 186 members of the organisation when they joined it."

The U.N. Security Council and General Assembly have repeatedly condemned Israel's occupation and unilateral annexation of Arab territories, but resolutions upholding the Palestinians' right to return and/or compensation have remained unimplemented, and many have complained that the organisation is not equipped with effective instruments to guarantee the respect of international laws.

"There are provisions in the U.N. charter for enforcing measures to be adopted, but these are rarely invoked, and the decision to invoke them is taken by the Security Council exclusively," Mr. de Soto explained.

Delivering a lecture on "Leadership and the U.N. Role in Conflict Resolu-

tion" Wednesday, Mr. de Soto closed the first week of the one-month International Leadership Programme, opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on June 1.

More than 160 participants, from senior government officials to high level diplomats, international human rights lawyers, and leading university professors from 56 countries, convened here to participate in the programme, which inaugurates the newly-established UNU/International Leadership Academy (ILA).

The 50-strong legion of celebrities of diplomacy and international politics scheduled to deliver lectures in the next sessions include: former U.S. Assistant-Secretary of State Harlan Cleveland; Jan Egeland, Norway's secretary of state for foreign affairs; Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament; Noel Brown, former director of the United Nations Energy Agency (UNEA); Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Senior Political Advisor to the Egyptian President Osama Bazz.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to deliver a lecture on "Leadership and Peace and Security in the Middle East" on June 20.

In addition to Dr. Majali, Jordan is represented at the illustrious forum by Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh, Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani, and former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai.

U. of Jordan lands on the Web

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Wednesday announced the finalisation of its web site on the Internet.

The site is: <http://www.ju.edu.jo>

Offered there is general information about the University of Jordan and important addresses including names of key administrators.

Also included is information pertaining to the university facilities, academic departments, training and research centres, and dean-ships.

Students can learn about the university's admission requirements, by-laws and regulations, its student body, research status and facilities, academic resources, student services, plus faculty members, and tuition fees.

Browsers can also find out about university publications, and the Arabic courses offered for speakers of other languages at the Language Centre. There is also an on-

line application form.

In addition, the site provides a university calendar for the academic years 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, and a campus plan.

Undergraduate and post-graduate programmes and course descriptions are still under construction and will be completed and put on the site within few months.

The information, said a university statement, will be continuously updated.

The site was executed by ARABIA ON LINE.

The University of Jordan said comments on this site are welcome and on-line queries about any aspect of the university can be addressed to the following E-Mail address: admin@ju.edu.jo

Earlier, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology realised its own Web site at: <http://fet.ju.edu.jo>.

Official presents U.N. team with 3 reports on Israeli practices against Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Palestinian Affairs, Director "Ibrahim" Tarshihi, presented three United Nations officials here on a fact-finding mission with three reports on Israeli violations against the Palestinian people.

The first document is a report on the Israeli government's settlement programme and the enlargement of existing settlements on Arab property.

The second deals with Israel's settlement plans in Jerusalem, its judaisation activities in the Arab sector of the holy city, its closure of Palestinian institutions, its drive to evict the Arab population by withdrawing their identity cards, its interference in Arab education systems, and the dese-

cration of holy places.

Attached to the second report are two maps depicting the city of Jerusalem and illustrating the expanding judaisation process as well as a sketch of the planned Jewish settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim — Arab land which is part of east Jerusalem.

The third report is an outline of Israel's human rights violations, its mass arrest of Arab people last year, the condition of Arab detainees in Israeli jails, Israel's demolition of Arab homes, the health and economic situation in the Palestinian lands under occupation, numbers and names of Arab people killed or wounded by Israeli forces.

Mr. Tarshihi also provided the U.N. team with a

study published by Israeli newspapers on mass expulsion of Arabs, and the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and its serious effects on the local population.

A department official said the U.N. officials, who arrived in Amman Monday evening, conducted interviews Tuesday with Palestinian witnesses who recently arrived in Jordan from the West Bank. He said the visiting team will Thursday travel to the King Hussein Bridge to meet Palestinians arriving from the occupied territories in order to gather more information about the general situation in those territories before leaving for Damascus Friday.



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WHAT'S GOING ON

BRITISH SUMMER FAIR

* Annual summer fair at the British ambassador's residence, on Friday (11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

LECTURE

* "The Nature of Contemporary Jewish Society" by Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet and "Arab Perceptions of Jewish Society" by Rami Khoury at the World Affairs Council, Jabal Amman, Fourth Circle, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Sierra Leone forces free all 300 Nigerian troops

FREETOWN (AFP) — Pro-junta forces in Sierra Leone released all 300 Nigerian troops held as human shields to deter further Nigerian military intervention here, state radio reported Wednesday.

"Their release is a gesture of goodwill as the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC — the junta in power since May 25) is exploring all avenues to bring the situation to a peaceful end," the broadcast said.

The troops had been held in what the junta had described "as lucrative targets" to prevent a resumption of Nigerian-led military intervention aimed at restoring to power elected civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Nigerian warships Monday shelled Freetown in an

apparent bid to convince the AFRC to step down. Some 80 civilians died as a result, according to state radio.

A Ghanaian governmental delegation was expected in Freetown to resume negotiations with the junta.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leonean troops and former rebels have created a joint army, according to a rebel leader who also warned Wednesday that Nigerian intervention could turn the country into "Africa's Vietnam."

Self-proclaimed "general" Francis Ibrahim told AFP in Lagos by telephone that a Sierra Leonean people's army had been set up by the junta and former rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

Speaking from Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, Ibrahim said he was a comrade in arms of rebel

leader Foday Sankoh, who has been detained in Nigeria since March.

Nigeria has sent hundreds of troops to Sierra Leone to join colleagues already there under a joint defence pact, and the Abuja regime launched a bid to oust the junta that seized power on May 25.

France has begun a new operation to evacuate foreigners from Sierra Leone, using naval vessels. Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said Wednesday.

A reliable source said earlier that "foreign nationals who have asked to and are able to leave" were being ferried from a beach close to Freetown to the despatch ship Jean Moulin and the frigate Germinal.

On Sunday, the Jean Moulin evacuated more 261 for-

eigners from 17 countries, including 21 French people.

Mr. Rummelhardt said that the new operation was aimed at "gathering the last of our compatriots who were not able or did not want to benefit from previous operations as well as nationals of some friendly countries who have asked for our assistance."

He said that 1,217 people, including seven French nationals of whom two were journalists, were evacuated by helicopter Tuesday to the USS Kearsarge. The American warship took them to neighbouring Guinea, AFP in Conakry reported.

The two French ships are also due to take evacuees to Conakry.

Some 2,700 people have been evacuated by U.S. Marines since the coup.



Evacuees are seen arriving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge off the coast of Sierra Leone during operation Nobel Obelisk. U.S. helicopters staged a third evacuation of foreigners from Sierra Leone, ferrying more than 1,000 people to the U.S. warship amid fears of widespread violence after a military coup (Reuters photo)

India shoots down U.S. missile report as bid to scuttle peace

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India Wednesday denied U.S. media comments that it has deployed surface missiles on the borders of Pakistan and said the report aimed to fuel animosity between the two South Asian rivals.

A Defence Ministry official spokesman denied the report published in the Washington Post on the deployment of India's "Prithvi" (Earth) surface missiles on Pakistan's borders.

"We have no knowledge of the deployment of Prithvi on India-Pakistan border," the ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

"We have nothing more to add to that," he said, as senior government officials said the report aimed at jeopardising upcoming talks between India and Pakistan later this month.

The officials also described the comments in the U.S. newspaper as "a motivated report."

"We are trying to forward a dialogue process so why should we create hurdles by placing Prithvi on an offensive mode?" asked a top government official on condition of anonymity.

The foreign secretaries of the two countries are scheduled to meet later this month to pick up the high-level talks that they started in March for the first time in

three years. The official accused the Pakistani military of trying to sabotage the ongoing talks, which were further strengthened when prime ministers of the two countries met at a regional summit last month in the Maldives.

"There are forces in Pakistan who are inimical to peace," the official said of India and Pakistan who have fought three wars since 1947.

Citing unnamed U.S. officials, the Washington Post said India had moved fewer than a dozen Prithvi missiles to a frontier zone in its border-state of Punjab.

"We know that the missiles have been moved, and in the wrong direction," one U.S. official reportedly said.

"This is going to prompt a bad reaction, even an over-reaction" in Pakistan, said another.

Washington says the production of the 250-kilometre range Prithvi, which has been upgraded with two variants, could further fuel regional hostility and trigger an arms race in South Asia.

Pakistan has also voiced fears over the missile, which can carry a half-tonne nuclear warhead, saying the controversial Prithvi was targeted against its soil.

India argue that arms acquisition by Pakistan, which has bought Chinese M-11 missiles, and Chinese troops deployed near the Indian border, left Delhi with no option but to build up an arsenal of guided missiles.

"Even if for argument's sake, steps have been taken to deploy the Prithvi as claimed, let U.S. not forget that Islamabad's M-11 missiles are located close to the border," one Indian official told the times of India.

"So what is this fuss all about?"

Another official accused Pakistan, which late Tuesday said it "reserves the right to take necessary measures to safeguard its security" of being insincere.

India launched its controversial Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) in 1983 with an initial fund of \$900 million.

The IGMDP has built the Prithvi in 1987 and four years later it successfully tested a medium-range ballistic missile called Agni (Fire) to take the military's striking reach beyond the continent.

The IGMDP also has an array of maritime, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missile systems on its shelves, most of the them ready for deployment.

Families mourn victims of China's 1989 crackdown

BEIJING (R) — Carrying flowers and sacrificial food, families of students killed in China's 1989 crackdown on dissent flocked to cemeteries in Beijing to mourn their loved ones Wednesday.

Under the watchful eyes of plainclothes police, bereaved parents burned incense, laid flowers and swept tombs at suburban cemeteries to appease the souls of those killed when troops stormed the city centre and crushed a pro-democracy movement.

"It's impossible to forget...I cannot forgive," said Ding Zilin, whose son Jiang Jielian, a high school student, was just 17 when he was killed on the night of June 3-4, 1989.

Mrs. Ding, an associate professor of philosophy at People's University in Beijing, and her husband held a private memorial for their son at home.

Other relatives of victims visited cemeteries, bringing offerings of the favourite dishes of their loved ones, said one of the relatives.

Eight years after Chinese troops backed by tanks crushed the demonstrations, many still find it hard to forgive and forget.

Mrs. Ding, who has published a book containing the names of 150 victims of the bloody military crackdown, and 41 other bereaved parents sent a petition to parliament last month calling for an official inquiry into the action and a dialogue with the government.

Similar appeals in the last two years fell on deaf ears.

At Beijing's Tiananmen Square, centre of the 1989 demonstrations, uniformed and plainclothes police mingled with day-trippers from the countryside, people flying kites and foreign tourists taking snapshots.

No incidents were reported at the university belt in western Beijing, where students in past years had smashed bottles in a coded protest against the late leader Deng Xiaoping whose name in Chinese rhymes

with "little bottle."

This year's Tiananmen anniversary was the first since the death in February of Deng, who sent in the soldiers and tanks to crush the demonstrations.

Foreign journalists filmed and photographed on Tiananmen Square without police harassment but have been under tight surveillance in the days running up to the anniversary.

China's former Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, purged after the demonstrations for sympathising with student demonstrators, remained under virtual house arrest and still needed permission from the leadership to travel.

Diplomats say China's current leadership was nervous over the lingering influence and ambitions of Mr. Zhao, 77, whose liberal political and economic policies made him popular in the party and among the public.

Many activists fled into exile abroad and more are still serving lengthy jail terms.

Others who have been released live in obscurity and near poverty, though they do not elude the watchful eye of China's security agencies.

In the eastern province of Anhui, prosecutor-turned-dissident Shen Liangqing petitioned parliament this week, demanding a reassessment of the crackdown, the release of jailed political activists and permission for the return of political exiles.

London-based Amnesty International welcomed a report that four dissidents jailed in northeastern Jilin after protesting at the 1989 crackdown had had their convictions overturned.

China sent a different signal last week when a court in the southern town of Shenzhen jailed two labour activists for 3-1/2 years each for conspiring to subvert the government in a long-delayed ruling denounced by the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Sri Lanka rebels said withdrawing as troops advance

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger separatists have begun withdrawing from forward defence positions ahead of an army advance into their northern Wanni stronghold, military officials in the north said Wednesday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were vacating bases that lay along the path government troops were taking as they edged north from the former rebel-held town of Omani, they said.

"The LTTE is closing some of their bases north of Omani and withdrawing," one official told Reuters.

An LTTE spokesman in London was not immediately available for comment. Troops, who resumed their drive Tuesday after a

six-day pause, were advancing slowly towards the heavily fortified rebel town of Puliyankulam on one flank, officials said.

Soldiers on another flank, who had begun advancing towards Puliyankulam in a southeasterly direction from the former rebel town of Nedunkeni, were consolidating in areas just outside of Nedunkeni, they said.

The army captured Nedunkeni, 40 kilometres northeast of the government-controlled frontline town of Vavuniya, and Omani, 14 kilometres north of Vavuniya, after a massive offensive launched last month. Vavuniya is 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

The Defence Ministry said Wednesday that at least four rebels were killed and many

more wounded when the LTTE attacked troops at Vellankulam, near Nedunkeni, Tuesday.

Air force Kfir fighter jets and MI-24 helicopter gunships came to assist ground troops and engaged identified rebel targets in the area, causing heavy casualties to the LTTE, a ministry spokesman told Reuters.

One soldier was killed and eight others were wounded in the battle, he said.

Independent confirmation of the events is not possible as the international media has not been allowed in the war zone.

Two army divisions, consisting of about 20,000 troops, launched Operation Jaya Sikuru, or "Sure Of Victory," from Vavuniya on May 13 in a bid to open a supply route to the Jaffna

peninsula, 100 kilometres further north.

Troops captured the LTTE's former stronghold of Jaffna last year in a major offensive, driving the rebels into the Wanni.

The LTTE, who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in mainly Sinhalese Sri Lanka's north and east, have accused Colombo of killing Tamil civilians and destroying their property under the pretext of opening a supply route. An overnight statement issued by the LTTE's international office in London said the government, which resumed food supplies to the Wanni over the weekend after about two weeks, was not sending enough.

"The trickle of food allowed into the Wanni is not

only woefully inadequate to feed a rapidly starving population, it is getting progressively less," the statement said.

It added that Colombo was continuing a "cruel food siege of the Wanni." But the government says it plans to send up to 1,200 truckloads of food and other essential items during June.

Meanwhile, the rebels exploded a mine under a bus in Jaffna Tuesday, killing two soldiers, one policeman and two civilians, the Defence Ministry said.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since the ethnic war began in 1983. The rebels say the toll is higher.

Clinton's plane had to change course over Ireland

WASHINGTON (R) — Air Force One was forced to change course during President Bill Clinton's flight to Europe last week after an anti-collision system warned of another aircraft in the vicinity, a military spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Air Force Major Laura Feldman said the incident occurred about 320 kilometres outside of Shannon, Ireland, but the president was never in danger.

"There was never any danger to the president. The pilot of Air Force One at no time felt there was an emergency situation," Maj. Feldman said.

Mr. Clinton's plane left Andrews Air Force Base near Washington last Monday afternoon and was en route to Orly International Airport in Paris, France.

A sensitive new anti-collision system, the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), advised the crew of Air Force One, a Boeing 747, that another aircraft was below them and descending.

The other aircraft, a United Parcel Service (UPS) plane en route from Cologne, Germany to Philadelphia, was not equipped with the TCAS system. Federal regulations require the anti-collision system on all aircraft carrying 10 or more passengers, but not cargo planes.

Shannon air control officials instructed Air Force One to change course slightly and the plane climbed 2,000 feet and turned left 20 degrees, Maj. Feldman said. She said the UPS plane was never any closer to Air Force One than 1,000 feet below and three miles away.

"At no time did they receive a TCAS advisory telling them to manoeuvre" or take evasive action, Maj. Feldman said.

U.K. bans 2 Northern Ireland guerrilla groups

BELFAST (R) — Britain Tuesday outlawed two Northern Ireland guerrilla groups responsible for violence over the past year.

A government statement said Mo Mowlam, secretary of state for the province, had announced that the pro-British Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) and the pro-Irish Continuity Army Council (CAC) "will be proscribed from midnight (Tuesday)."

It said the ban was being implemented under Northern Ireland's emergency provisions act which permits her to make an order proscribing "any organisa-

tion that appears to her to be concerned in terrorism or promoting or encouraging it."

The formal ban makes membership of either group a crime and adds the two groups to the list of banned organisations in northern Ireland whose war for and against British rule in the past 29 years has killed 3,200 people.

"I have to look at the information as to whether these organisations, the CAC and the LVF, should be proscribed and I am examining that case at the moment," Ms. Mowlam told reporters two hours before

the ban was announced. She was speaking during a break in Belfast peace talks from which Sinn Fein, political wing of the main Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla group, is banned because of the IRA's failure to restore a broken truce.

The LVF split from Northern Ireland's mainstream Loyalist Movement, which is officially maintaining a ceasefire in its campaign to maintain British rule of the province.

It claimed responsibility for an aborted bomb attack on the Irish border town of Dundalk last week, accusing the Dublin government

of interfering in British affairs in Northern Ireland.

Loyalists trace their name to allegiance to the British crown. Three other loyalist groups have been banned for years and jointly declared a ceasefire in October 1994.

The CAC is a shadowy Republican splinter group which was thought responsible for an attempted car bomb in Belfast three weeks ago and an attack on a country hotel in July last year.

It shares the IRA's goals of ending British rule of Northern Ireland and reuniting it with the Republic of Ireland.

Irish premier pins survival hopes on a surging economy

DUBLIN (AFP) — A leader devoid of either pretension or charisma, John Bruton is gambling on the surging Irish economy and the "feel-good factor" to preserve his position as prime minister, which he has held for two years.

Since he found himself catapulted to power after the Labour Party defected from its alliance with the previous administration in December 1994, Mr. Bruton has become the least popular party leader: only 10 per cent of the Irish want him as prime minister.

A centrist, incarnating a mix of social and Christian democracy, Mr. Bruton has nevertheless recently survived a challenge to his leadership of the centre-right Fine Gael.

A former wealthy farmer from county Meath in the west of Ireland, Mr. Bruton was educated by Jesuits and showed the same attributes in his studies as would later mark his political career: Firm application and determination instead of brilliance.

At 21 he became the youngest deputy in Ireland, and between 1981 and 1987 headed six ministries. A dedicated parliamentarian, he introduced a number of reforms, such as the intro-

duction of television cameras into the Dail, the lower house.

On assuming the premiership in 1994 and inheriting a burgeoning economy, Mr. Bruton, 50 in May, set and achieved three targets: Steady economic growth (six to seven per cent), a successful European presidency, and the enactment of a programme of progressive social reform.

In this latter area, his battle against the Catholic Church to legalise divorce (approved by referendum) and allow information on abortion — to which Mr. Bruton, a father of four, is personally opposed — to be published earned him considerable respect as a political fighter.

And his conciliatory and meditative stance has allowed him to hold together his "rainbow" coalition of three parties — Fine Gael, Labour and the Democratic Left — without a rupture, overcoming the left's radical agenda, and any expected fickle intent by Labour leader Dick Spring, whose party caused the destruction of the previous administration.

For the first time in Irish political history, this election sees three parties presenting themselves to the electorate with a common programme.

Nevertheless Mr. Bruton, like his former British counterpart John Major, has never managed to translate his reputation for honesty and hard work into personal popularity. Critics point to his monotone, hesitant style of speaking, his grating laugh and his stiff, awkward bearing.

But his failure, along with Mr. Major and the northern Ireland parties, to achieve a breakthrough in that province's deadlocked peace process is his Achilles heel.

Mr. Bruton espoused the traditional neutral position of his party, as opposed to the nationalist stance of its main centre-right rival Fianna Fail, and presented himself as a mediator between the Northern Irish communities.

"Personally I think that building a bridge to the Unionist community is essential to the need for fundamental peace-making," he said. His efforts earned him the nickname "John Unionist" among nationalists and his relations with Sinn Fein, whose terrorist wing the IRA killed one of his friends, a Senator, in the 1970s, have always been strained.

Time Warner chief's son shot to death

NEW YORK (R) — The son of Time Warner Inc. Chairman Gerald Levin was killed by a gunshot to his head, medical examiners said Tuesday.

Jonathan Levin, a 31-year-old English teacher, was found dead Monday at his Manhattan apartment on Columbus Avenue, a police spokeswoman said. His body was badly decomposed and bound with duct tape and gagged, she said.

Police said there appeared to be no sign of forced entry to the apartment.

"We are shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Jonathan Levin," Time Warner President Richard Parsons said Tuesday.

The coroner's office said that the bullet that killed Levin perforated his skull and brain. The time of death was not disclosed.

Levin, a 31-year-old English teacher at Taft high school in the Bronx, did not turn up for work Monday, school officials said.

A police spokeswoman said neighbours who lived in the same building called police after one of them, who had a key to Levin's apartment, found the body Monday night.

U.S. envisages resuming aid to Kinshasa

KINSHASA (AFP) — The new Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) could be an early recipient of aid from the United States, seven years after Washington stopped assisting the previous Zairean regime of Mobutu Sese Seko.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) coordinator Anthony Gambino was upbeat after arriving here late Tuesday at the head of a five-member evaluation team.

"I would say that we are cautiously optimistic and look forward to meeting officials here and in various parts of the country to get a sense of how things are progressing," he said.

This first Western aid mission to arrive in Kinshasa since Laurent Kabila's rebel forces took the city on May 17 and ousted Mr. Mobutu is seen as a further sign of Washington's sympathy towards the new administration.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson is also expected later this week to reinforce American interest in a country which is potentially the richest in Africa, despite the wasting of its resources under Mr. Mobutu.

The White House said Tuesday that Mr. Richardson would be leading a delegation made up of officials from various U.S. government agencies. He would press Mr. Kabila to hold elections, respect human rights and uphold free-market economics.

"The Clinton administration was the first to welcome Mr. Kabila's promise of 'general elections' in 1999 and a new constitution, made as the rebel leader was sworn in as president with virtually unfettered powers under a decree he had signed the day before.

In the meantime he also banned all political parties and demonstrations.

On Friday, the day after the investiture, State Department spokesman Nicolas Burns said Washington would back Mr. Kabila if he leads his country to elections and democracy.

The European Union (EU) meanwhile is moving much more cautiously towards forming links with Mr. Kabila.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg Monday said they would support the transition to democracy in the DRC as it progressed, and they expressed extreme concern at reports of continued massacres of Rwandan Hutu refugees and other human rights abuses in the east of the country.

An EU delegation which went to Kinshasa last week failed to meet Mr. Kabila, as diplomats said his administration was giving "mixed signals."

"The sooner he gets his act together the better. The longer he delays, the tougher things are going to be," said one Western diplomat.

In Paris, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt described the ban on political activities as "worrying."

"The suspension of all political party activities until further notice does not further national reconciliation and freedom of expression," he added.

France, which supported Mr. Mobutu almost to the end, had its first official contact with Mr. Kabila Sunday, when Ambassador Michel Rougagnou met the new leader, though only after his U.S. and British counterparts.

Mr. Rougagnou said afterwards Mr. Kabila expressed his desire for good relations with France, which he needed to reconstruct the country.



A Chinese protester identified as Li Song, a representative of an exiled-pro democracy group, is overpowered by Tokyo policemen upon arrest after he tried to drive through a police cordon around the Chinese embassy in Tokyo Wednesday in a protest on the eighth anniversary of China's bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown (Reuters photo)

Man drives at police cordon at China's Tokyo embassy

TOKYO (R) — A driver tried to crash a van through a police cordon around the Chinese embassy in Tokyo Wednesday in a protest on the eighth anniversary of China's bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown.

The incident occurred about 300 metres from the entrance to the embassy, where about a dozen protesters were also gathered carrying banners and demanding to meet Chinese diplomats.

The driver was dragged from the vehicle by police, who had managed to stop it with a mobile barrier that was on hand in case of such an incident.

"Police broke the windshield of the van so they could open the door and pulled out the driver and wrestled him to the

ground," Reuters television producer Joe Kainz said.

A police spokesman said the driver and another protester were arrested.

Police had stepped up security around the embassy in central Tokyo in anticipation of protests.

"The protesters just outside the embassy stuffed several times with police as they unfurled banners demanding a full account of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

The group was led by Wu'er Kaixi, an exiled leader of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

Mr. Wu'er, who arrived in Japan late Monday for a 10-day visit to seek support for the pro-democracy movement, now lives in Taiwan.

After the 1989 crackdown in Beijing, Mr. Wu'er es-

caped to the West and studied in France and in the United States before taking up residence in Taiwan.

Mr. Wu'er was the second-most wanted dissident in China when he escaped to the West.

"Remember eight years ago," Mr. Wu'er said in a speech to the protesters.

He denounced the Chinese government for trying to wage what he called a political conspiracy by putting "tremendous pressure" on Japan to make it difficult for him to obtain a visa to visit Tokyo.

He told a news conference in Tokyo Tuesday that he planned to return home with other dissidents in a couple of years to start a political movement that would pressure China's government to hold elections.

U.S. ethics panel to recommend human embryo cloning — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An ethics panel is expected to recommend the U.S. Congress that it pass laws allowing some research with cloned human embryos but not for making cloned human babies, the Washington Post said Wednesday.

Members of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission told the daily their recommendations were a sensible attempt at finding common ground between opponents of human cloning and those who see it as an important medical research tool.

The 18 experts in science, law and theology met five times to discuss the implications of cloned human embryos since Scottish scientists reported in February that they had successfully cloned a lamb.

The ethics panel suggests allowing privately funded scientists or physicians to make cloned human embryos for research purposes, but prohibit their implantation into women's wombs.

"The important thing is to get some rules about ethical conduct," said commission member David Cox, a professor of genetics and pediatrics at California's Stanford University.

President Bill Clinton has imposed a moratorium on the use of federal funds for human cloning until its ethical implications are fully understood.

Panel members decided a general law governing cloning was needed to prevent privately funded scientists from wading too quickly into the unregulated realm of cloning research.

"We're focusing on the arena of making babies, and the rules shouldn't rely on the source of funds," Mr. Cox said.

The experts were concerned that a comprehensive ban would prevent promising medical research that is not ethically questionable while more relaxed legislation might turn the United States into an unregulated "offshore island" for cloning research.

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Huge blast rocks Kabul as Taliban ammunition dump goes up in smoke

KABUL (Agencies) — A massive explosion rocked Kabul early Wednesday morning as a Taliban ammunition dump on the eastern city limits went up in smoke, showering shrapnel into residential areas, residents said.

"There were a series of small bangs, then a giant boom and next thing my leg was bleeding," a shopkeeper near the explosion site told AFP.

The 7:30 a.m. (0300GMT) explosion was at the base of the historic Bala Hissar Fortress in east Kabul, which is not an active frontline but a depot for munitions.

The shockwave of the explosion shook residential areas and a huge plume of white smoke billowed skywards, later burning black smoke.

Taliban vehicles were seen racing to and from Bala Hissar but there was no immediate report of Taliban or civilian casualties.

It was not immediately clear if the explosion was accidental or caused by an act of sabotage.

Jagged shards of shrapnel from what appeared to be long-range rockets were seen lying at the foot of Bala Hissar.

In the downtown Ariana Hotel, some two to three kilometres from the explosion site hundreds of young Taliban members squatted on perimeter walls watching the rising smoke in fascination.

The Ariana Hotel is a billeting station for fresh recruits of the Islamic militia on their way from the provinces to the frontlines north of Kabul.

Meanwhile, Afghan opposition forces launched counterattacks against the Taliban militia north of Kabul early Wednesday, a Pakistan-based news service said.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said guerrillas loyal to former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood had fought their way back into the northern part of the vital town of Jalal Siraj, 70 kilometres from Kabul.

But the Taliban, who captured Jalal Siraj Tuesday, were still holding most of the town and the nearby village of Golbahar at the entrance to Mr. Masood's Panjsher Valley stronghold.

AIP said Mr. Masood's men had launched a separate attack to try to regain positions they lost Tuesday in the village of Pul-i-Matak, a few kilometres south of Jalal-Os-Siraj.

Fighting was also raging about five kilometres east of Golbahar, the agency said.

It quoted Taliban sources as saying the purist Islamic militia had captured 100 opposition fighters in Tuesday's battles, most of them in Golbahar.

Opposition spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment.

In a separate development, an ammunition dump blew up in the Bala Hissar district of Kabul, AIP reported. It quoted Taliban officials as saying there had been no casualties in the early morning blast. It was not clear what had caused the explosion.

The Taliban, who seized Kabul in September, launched a big offensive Tuesday to recapture Golbahar and Jalal Siraj, which straddles the main highway linking the Afghan capital to the north via the Salang Pass across the Hindu Kush Mountains.

Mr. Masood had taken the two towns Friday, cutting off a Taliban force that moved north of the Hindu Kush last week in an effort to link up with Taliban fighters who had established a fleeting presence in the northern capital of Mazar-i-Sharif.

They were expelled from Mazar-i-Sharif last Wednesday after heavy street fighting with an opposition Shiite Muslim militia backed by ethnic Uzbek troops who had previously allied with the Taliban against opposition warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

The mainly ethnic Pashtun Taliban, still the largest single force in Afghanistan, want to impose their strict interpretation of Islamic Sharia Law throughout the war-shattered country.

The anti-Taliban alliance Wednesday offered to host an international peace conference in Mazar-i-Sharif to help end the war in Afghanistan, an official spokesman told AFP.

The United Nations, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and neighbouring states of Afghanistan would all be invited to participate, spokesman General Homayoon Fauzi said.

"It has been announced by the United Islamic Front for Salvation of Afghanistan (UIFSA) that a conference be held to work on a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue," Gen. Fauzi declared.

secretly fled to the South through the Czech Republic last month.

The defector, a graduate of Pyongyang's premier medical school for the elite, was sent to the Czech Republic to raise foreign exchange for the cash-strapped Stalinist country.

He decided to flee to the South after listening to the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) Radio reports, the newspaper said.

He also testified that the North Korean government was assuaging its military leaders of Mr. Hwang's defection by saying "Hwang Jang-Yop was a secretary in charge of ideology and knows nothing about the

military, so do not worry."

The defector also said he heard through his medical circle that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il "overall had no health problems" but "has complained of pain in the back of his neck resulting from stress."

He added that North Korea sent three physicians to Switzerland for cardiac research in case Kim Jong-il suffers a heart attack. Mr. Kim's father, the "great leader" Kim Il-Sung died in 1994 reportedly from a heart attack.

South and North Korea are still technically at war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce and not a peace agreement.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

A WRITER for *Al Majd* weekly reflected on the economic situation in Jordan in light of remarks by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali during a meeting with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce. Ahmad Nimri quoted Dr. Majali as saying that while Jordan's imports top the JD 3 billion level, annual exports barely reach the JD 1 billion point, admitting that the Jordanian economy is facing difficulties and the country is currently passing through economic recession. The writer said such admission is a positive development, but it remains to be seen whether the Majali government is going to do something to address the situation. What the government is required to do in the course of addressing this serious situation is to draw up plans for a drastic change in the present economic policies and a change of persons responsible for the present situation, said the writer. Among the issues which the government should tackle are the "dictates" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which have precipitated the current crisis and caused the recession and brought about the deficit in the balance of trade, according to the writer. He said unless the government deals with this issue at its roots, by scrapping the dictated reform programmes and replacing those officials responsible for the present situation, mere admission of the seriousness of the situation remains meaningless.

Rumiana M. Nugent et al.

Rumiano M. Nazzari

Rumiana M. Nusseibeh,
Amman.

Society on the Move

The 'meant to be' meetings are on

Although it has not been officially announced, we have learned that Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel is planning to visit Jordan, Palestine and Israel in September. His plans to travel to the region in April were discussed during HRH Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the republic last October. It was then, at a private dinner Mr. Havel hosted for Their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath, Princess Rahma and Prince Rashid, that the two leaders telephoned His Majesty King Hussein and an agreement was reached for a visit to Jordan. The April plans, which included other parts of the region, were postponed when Mr. Havel was obliged to undergo surgery. But recuperated and active again, he will come to the area with his wife and senior government officials.



Vaclav Havel

NORDIC TRACK: We have also learned that the visit of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to Denmark, cancelled in April as the King himself was recuperating from surgery, is being rescheduled. But no date has yet been decided upon. The state visit, as reported earlier, is at the invitation of Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik.

DECLARATIVE & DISCREET: In Amman early last

week for a Steering Committee meeting were signatories to the Copenhagen Declaration that paved the way for forming the people to people contact to support the peace process between Arabs and Israelis. Discussing the peace agreements, regional cooperation, settlements and violence, were: from Jordan, Ihsan Shurdom, former Air Force General and advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, and J.T. editor-in-chief George Hawameh — joining them for the meeting were former Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin, Wadi Sharayeh of the University of Jordan and writer Rami Khouri; from Palestine, Dr. Riad Malki, a prominent political activist and formerly a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; from Egypt, Lutfi Khoulfi, a prominent journalist and political activist, and Abdel Munem Said, director of Al Ahran's Strategic Studies Centre; from Israel, David Kimche, former director general of the foreign ministry, and Amos Ganor, former ambassador to Denmark and Japan; and from Denmark, Herbert Pundik, former editor of Politiken, Ambassador Torben Brylle, head of the Secretariat in Copenhagen, and Ambassador Lars Blinkenberg, envoy to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The agenda also included a review of the list of international personalities invited to become members of the group's board of governors. One acceptance was received from former Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez, regrets were sent by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and thus far there have been no replies from former Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, former President of the European Commission Jacques Delors of France, former Tanzanian Prime Minister Julius Nyerere, former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, and renowned Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Although the group's assistant Henriette Rald kept the meetings on a low profile, thus no local press met with the participants to the meetings, a group of foreign journalists in Jordan on a UN Department of Information-organised tour did catch up with the Copenhagen Declaration team. The journalists were Anne Kauffmann, Journal de Geneve (Switzerland), Margarida Santos Lopes, Publico (Portugal), Ash Narain Roy, The Hindustan (India), Alfredo Jalife-Rahme, El Financiero (Mexico), Rahimullah

Yousafzai, The News (Pakistan), John Battersby, Sunday Independent Newspapers Group (S. Africa), and Valeria Sycheva, Segodnya (Russian Federation). The principals from the Copenhagen Declaration group briefed the journalists on the aims, activities and plans of their mission.

WARMING UP FOR MOVES: Although changes in assignments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other offices did not materialise as expected last week, there are reports that Ambassador Amjad Majali will vacate his post in Athens to run in this fall's parliamentary elections. Also possible is the return to the ministry of Ambassador Sahel Kabariiti from Ankara. What is certain is that Ambassador Marwan Muasher is being feted by friends and colleagues before his June 10 departure for Washington.

EVEN IN AJLOUN: The German-based Bertelsmann Foundation, which has organised and sponsored a series of closed dialogue meetings between Israelis and Jordanians, was forced to cancel plans to host its third and last such meeting at the end of June in Jordan. Arrangements were made to conduct the meetings in Ajloun, but when the Jordanian tabloid press got wind of the story through a leak, it was meeting mayhem for the organisers. A meeting planner for the Rabat Castle Hotel, where the event was to take place, was being called regularly by officials and others who wanted information on the event. It appears the pressure on the hotel management, who probably never expected all this attention, was more than they were willing to bear. So Bertelsmann Foundation Middle East Department Director Christian-Peter Hanell will be taking the meeting to Germany.

WELL ORCHESTRATED: For Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Director General Ibrahim Izzidine the foundation's first major international seminar under his directorship was in full swing since Tuesday and expected to conclude today. The focus was on "Palestine — 30 years after

June 5, 1967." Presentations at the various sessions were made by Adnan Bakhit and Ali Mahafza, Anis Qassem, Jonathan Kuttab, Khalil Shakaqi, Ali Jarbawi, Ibrahim Abu Lagud, Samir Abdullah, Aziz Hawar, Assad Abdul Rahman, and Ziad Abu Amr. Chairing the sessions were Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Taher Hikmat, Taher Musri, Hanna Nasser, Leila Sharaf, Ali Atiqah, and Ahmad Obaidat. Presentations ranged in subject matter from "Palestine In Contemporary Arab Thinking", "Educational Structure In Palestine" and "The Role Of Palestinians In The Diaspora."

BOARD SHUFFLES: The Jordanian-Lebanese League, established just about a year ago to foster common ties, held elections for its new board. The results came in as follows: Board Chairman Leila Sharaf, Deputy Chairman Kamal Shaer, Secretary Sami Halabi, Treasurer Fouad Abu Hamdan, head of the Economic Cooperation Committee Emil Haddad, deputy head of the Economic Committee Anwar Sousa, head of the Social/Cultural Committee Samia Mango. The other members are Abdul Karim Kabariiti, Samir Kassar, Abdul Hadi Majali, and Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib.

BOLT THEM DOWN: One would be hard-pressed to say that two particular doctors, members of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), have applied their best bedside manner in the board room. A heated debate over the membership of a JMA member on the association's board of directors hit the boiling point when two physicians got physical. Drs. Basem Kisiwani and Hani Haddadin, armed with water bottles and ashtrays began hurling the objects as well as insults at each other, landing both of them, separately of course, in the emergency rooms of some local hospitals. Ashtray-throwing, we all know too well, was an aberration of an incident in Parliament, and water fights took place in the chambers of those meant to protect this most vital resource.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Russian cartoonist still working after 96 years

By Adam Tanner
Reuter

MOSCOW — Boris Yefimov remembers that when Josef Stalin suddenly rang to check up on a political cartoon he was drawing, he leapt up and stood at attention by the phone as the Soviet leader dictated his vision.

"You must draw this personality armed to the teeth, with planes, tanks, all sorts of cannons, you understand?" Stalin said, referring to U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower, who was to embody the West's threat to Moscow. "They're coming by at 6 p.m. to pick it up."

"I looked at the clock and saw it was 4:30 p.m. And I had two days' worth of work ahead. Had I failed to fulfil the order, I would have been punished, but miraculously I finished it," Yefimov said in an interview.

Stalin personally added some text to the drawing, and the 1947 image of an aggressive Eisenhower threatening a Soviet Eskimo family became one of the first anti-American cartoons of the cold war.

Today at the age of 96, Yefimov has a memory as sharp as the images of the greedy fat capitalist, the evil Uncle Sam or the crazed Adolf Hitler he drew for decades in official newspapers such as Pravda and Izvestia and other leading Soviet publications.

When the Soviet state want-

ed to sum up its position in one iconic image, it was often a Yefimov cartoon that spoke louder than an entire report from the politburo.

Yefimov began his career during the Russian Revolution after the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, and already by 1924 had published his first in a series of books of political cartoons.

"Boris Yefimov is the most political of our graphic artists," Leon Trotsky, a Bolshevik leader and once a friend of Yefimov, wrote in the introduction. "He knows politics, likes it and penetrates all the details. This is his strongest trait."

Looking back on a career that produced tens of thousands of published political caricatures, Yefimov says, ideology and a desire to participate in events motivated his work.

"My generation believed," he said in his book-lined apartment overlooking the Moskva River. "My caricatures were directed against imperialism, against fascism, the Holocaust, the threat of war, and I believed in this."

But looking back today, Yefimov does regret some of his drawings, especially during the brutal Stalin era when the state killed millions of innocent citizens.

"I'm sorry about those drawings directed against oppositionists, against Trotsky, against (leading Bol-she-

vik Nikolai) Bukharin, who were victims of repression," he said.

"I could not refuse to do them...but today I remember this with disappointment," said Yefimov, whose bushy white eyebrows flow over his thick glasses. "To say 'no, I don't want to do this, shoot me' that would be naive."

Stalin's terror did claim Yefimov's brother, Mikhail Koltsov, an editor at Pravda and a supreme Soviet parliamentarian, who was shot in 1940. Many of Koltsov's associates were also arrested.

"I was ready to be arrested the next day after the arrest of my brother Koltsov. I had packed my warm clothes, but no one came that day, or the next or the third," he said.

"I understood it was not coincidence. A case had already been prepared against me that my brother was a spy and I was a spy," he said. "But I was not touched on Stalin's personal order."

Unlike many of older fellow Russians who, looking back, recall a golden era under the Tsars, Stalin or even Leonid Brezhnev, Yefimov said all periods in this century had their shortcomings.

"There just wasn't a time when everything was dandy," he said. "Even under the Tsar there were pog-rooms."

Enduring memories of the 20th century

Yefimov is able to speak with authority about the past because his memory for detail is remarkable. He has an ability to give exact dates, dates, and names that date back to the beginning of the century.

He remembers reading the newspaper in 1914 when World War I began, watching Lenin speak in Moscow — on November 20, 1922 he says decisively — and seeing Hitler in Berlin.

"I did once see Hitler in 1933. I saw him walking on Wilhelmstrasse where the presidential palace was, as he was leaving a reception for President Hindenburg," he said.

Past excitement comes back to life as he recalls the first time he saw a car, an electric lamp and the telephone.

"I remember it as if it was today the first time I saw an automobile," he said with a laugh. "I was shocked to see a carriage move without a horse. It was an incredible spectacle. Your eyes are used to seeing a horse in front and then all of sudden there was no horse how did it move?"

Yefimov cannot explain the secret of his longevity, but he takes a certain pride in the achievement.

"It comes from nature probably. I don't do anything special. I don't refuse myself anything. I eat and drink a lot of whatever I want," he said.



Boris Yefimov shows off his drawings of American General Dwight Eisenhower threatening the Soviet Union, a political cartoon personally approved by Stalin. At age 96, Yefimov, who started contributing political cartoons after the Russian Revolution in 1917, is still working on his memoirs and other projects (Reuter photo)

"I frequently meet friends at the table and drink vodka and cognac and beer, and eat everything. I don't follow any diet."

"As far as women, well there's nothing you can do about it, nature has blocked that," he said. His wife of 65 years died in

1985. "Of course, it's already too long. As you know the average age of death for men in our country is 58," he said.

"I'm already nearly 40 years above the statistical norm." He devotes 40 minutes every morning to exercise, including 250 sit-ups, and

walks about freely but slowly on his own.

As he explained his daily routine, the phone rang. "That's my great grandchild," he said, adding that she has a 10-year old daughter — one of his two great-great-grandchildren. Worsening vision has made

it hard for Yefimov to draw political cartoons anymore, but he still paints.

He is also writing his memoirs and contributing to a book celebrating Moscow's 850 anniversary, bating away on a old manual typewriter, itself a relic from an earlier era.

Central Asia — new challenges for Turkey and others

Turkey in post-Soviet Central Asia

by Gareth Winrow

Published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London

THE DRAMATIC developments that accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union led to what seems to have been a feeling of euphoria shared by the Turkish public and officialdom alike. The Turks suddenly believed that they were not alone in the world but that there were after all other "Turks" living in the former Soviet Union. The Turkish authorities and public imagined and hoped that in embracing these other Turks, Turkey's stature in the world order would be elevated accordingly. This feeling of exhilaration comes hard on the heels of the realisation that Turkey would join the European Community in the future, after the negative Brussels response to Turkey's application in December 1989.

The practical step towards developing cooperation between Turkey and the newly independent "Turkic" states in Central Asia was the so-called First Turkic Summit convened in October 1992, in Ankara. This summit was attended by heads of state from Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. The result of that summit was disappointing. A second Turkic summit was organised in Istanbul in October 1994. This summit was more successful. Its results indicate that relations between the Turkic states are becoming increas-

ingly formalised and institutionalised.

In his book, Gareth Winrow tries to catch the threads of conflict and cooperation in Central Asia, and to a high extent succeeds.

In his study Mr. Winrow points out that although Ankara should soon revise its expectations, Turkey had an important stake in developments in Central Asia. In fact, the Western officials were practically anxious that the Central Asians should take Turkey rather than Iran as their model. The Turkish authorities have often drawn attention to the relevance of the application of the so-called economic model (especially after the recent Turkish experience of economic reform in the 1980s) for the Central Asians.

This study aims to examine the achievements and shortcomings of recent Turkish policy towards Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, the newly independent Turkic state in Central Asia, from the enthusiasm and optimism of 1991-2 to the realism of the mid 1990s. Less attention is given to the more Iranian-oriented and largely Farsi-speaking Tajikistan, which has been torn by civil strife since 1992.

The study is divided into eight sections. The second is a short historical background. The third focuses on the nature of Turkish involvement in the region in recent years. The fourth and the fifth sections focus on the first and the second Turkic summits. The sixth section analyses the Turkish economic interests in the region. Section seven examines the extent of competition and cooperation between Turkey,

Iran, Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China, in post-Soviet Central Asia.

The author argues that Pakistan and Iran, together with Russia and in the longer term China, are all to some extent economic and political rivals of Turkey in Central Asia. Relations between Turkey and Russia, in general, have continued to improve in recent years. However, the author believes that if President Boris Yeltsin were voted out of office and replaced by a hard line nationalist figure relations could deteriorate.

Iran and Turkey are ideological rivals in the sense that both are Muslim countries that offer alternative models of political, economic, and cultural development. In spite of that, the author believes that economic cooperation between Turkey and Iran in Central Asia is possible.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, according to the point of view of the author, are not major players in Central Asia. As for Saudi Arabia, the geographical factor slows the process of having economic and political links between Riyadh and Central Asia.

Regarding Pakistan, experience in banking, insurance and knowledge of English would appear to make Pakistan a possible rival for Turkey in Central Asia. However, both countries have excellent relations, and cooperation is also possible between them.

China has expanded its economic interests in neighbouring Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, however, the author does not believe that China is a strong rival to Turkey in the

region.

As for the Turkish competition with the Western countries, the author thinks that there are many factors (such as, the familiarity with the culture of the region and the closeness of the language) that could encourage and enable the Turkish entrepreneurs to adapt more than Western business people to local conditions in Central Asia. However, the author believes that cooperation between Turkish and Western companies is possible and mutually beneficial, assuming that the former would provide quality labour at reasonable cost, and the latter would provide capital and sophisticated technology.

In his conclusion, the author assesses future possible courses of action for Turkey in the region, against the background of recent domestic developments. Mr. Winrow concludes by saying that, further instability in the region would pose new challenges to Turkey and other players. Therefore, these countries should aim to compete less, and cooperate more in developing the Central Asian economies through concerted action, as this would contribute greatly towards regional stability and would in turn, benefit the Central Asians themselves, and all outside concerned parties, including Turkey.

This study is useful and valuable to specialists in the field and to anyone trying to understand the roots of conflicts and cooperation in Central Asia.

Dr. Adli Kandah

Go ahead, play

By Jean-Claude Elias

A FEW years ago, in 1989 exactly, an apparently insignificant event changed my vision of modern computing. Brought up (academically speaking that is) in the very conservative and serious atmosphere that prevailed in the world of computers, back in the early seventies, our conception of the machines was the austere, frowning one. Just imagine computing without monitors, neither monochrome nor colour, without mice and without even keyboards, at least not the way we know them now. The university labs where we first saw a computer looked more like Frankenstein's place than today's hi-tech display of equipment.

It is therefore little wonder if in the late eighties I used to categorically reject those emerging PC games and went as far as to forbid their usage and even their presence in the computer company I was then managing. I was keen to preserve the "seriousness" of my profession. Those craving for games could always turn to specialised consoles that one connects to a TV set. Until that fine day when a client stepped into our office, talked to one of our sales engineers, and walked out a few minutes later having purchased a computer. The quickest PC sale I had ever seen.

Having asked the engineer how he managed that trick, he confessed that he was secretly playing one of those "forbidden" computer games when the client saw it and decided to purchase a machine just because of this game. The JD5 disk that contained the game had sold a machine worth JD2,500! I did not only congratulate the engineer — after all I AM business oriented — but I also lifted all restrictions on PC games.

The PC world has forced a whole generation of computer graduates to take a more relaxed look at it. One can be an analyst, a programmer or a data processing consultant and still enjoy the pleasant aspect of computing. Apart from the proliferation of the above mentioned games, a wide array of gadgets is now available to use with the machines. They are not only funny, but they are truly useful. Denying them would really be acting old fashioned. Doesn't every copy of Microsoft Windows operating sys-

chip talk



tem comes with a good set of games?

Tired of your 2-button mouse? Try Kensington's Thinking Mouse, a JD70 device with four buttons that you can programme to perform any set of keystrokes. Your multimedia speakers just don't deliver the bass sound you need to feel latest rap song? Just add the new Creative Sub-Woofers, sold for JD120 in Jordan, it will bring down your neighbours wall. Feel like watching JTV programmes on your PC's screen? Get a TV tuner card (JD150 approx.), plug it inside an empty slot in your computer and enjoy and image quality that will be, most likely, superior to that of your TV set. Want to play computer games with more realism? Try the Thunderseat (JD250) — an electrically powered seat that brings you the ultimate physical sensations of flight simulation software. And you thought computing was all about tedious typing and calculations!

Computer professionals have not only accepted these gadgets, they have learnt to like them and use them efficiently. Their daily work can sometimes be so stressful that any accessory that makes operating a computer easier, more pleasant or that allows them to "take a break" is more than welcome. After all if they end up working better... Besides, the computer games business is a very lucrative one. A senior officer at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, USA, has told me, that most of the time they go to work wearing blue jeans. The key to good computing may be relaxation.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 5, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
4:35 Live From Paris — French Open
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Step By Step
8:00 World Echo
8:30 New Talk Show — The Oprah Winfrey Show
9:10 Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
10:00 News In English
10:30 Feature Film — Disaster At Valdez
12:00 Taratata

Friday, June 6, 1997

2:00 Live from Paris
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Family Matters
8:00 The Health Show
8:30 Hawkeye
9:10 500 Nations
10:00 News In English
10:30 Mini Series — People Like Us
12:00 NBA

Saturday, June 7, 1997

3:20 Live From Paris — Finals Ladies
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Hanging' with Mr. Cooper
8:00 Magazine Zero One
10:00 News In English
10:30 MacGyver
11:15 Feature Film — Vision Of Murder Starring: Barbra Eden

Sunday, June 8, 1997

3:50 Live From Paris — Men's Final
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
8:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30 The Churchills
9:10 Renegade
10:00 News In English

10:30 One West Waikiki
11:01 Sisters

Monday, June 9, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
3:40 Spirou
4:05 Neighbours
4:30 In The Wild (Doc.)
5:00 Tilt
5:30 Blue Heelers
6:10 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Parenthood
8:00 Discover Magazine
8:30 Murder She Wrote
9:10 Highlander
10:00 News In English
10:30 The Wright Verdict
11:15 Homicide

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

3:30 Holy Koran
3:35 French Programme
4:00 Super Sport Follies
4:30 Dog House
5:00 Square One
5:10 Album Show
6:10 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Coach
8:00 Tilt
8:30 Encounter
9:10 Nature Of Things (Documentary)
10:00 News In English
10:30 West Beach
11:15 Drug Wars

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

3:30 Holy Koran
3:35 Soccer Match — America Cup Chile vs. Paraguay
5:30 Border Town
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Grace Under Fire (Doc.)
8:00 Soldier's Diary
8:30 Challenges
9:10 Spenser For Hire
10:00 News In English
10:25 Land's End
11:15 American Gothic

Rajab's umbilical discord

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

RAJAB WAS still sitting opposite me with his mug of 'coffee no-style' in hand. He appeared to have on his mind things far bigger than the publishing business. It was beginning to dawn on him, when he began to reflect upon it, that so much of what had been troubling him did not amount to much. Thinking did not befit him, and he swore not to do it ever again.

Rajab was not one of those people who cared about guns and knives. He did not care about the apparent loss of ethics and lack of values. He should not have therefore thought about either the loss of community spirit or about the increasing gap between rich and poor.

He did not mind people leaving their garbage behind whenever they went out on a picnic to their carefully marked spot along whichever main highway they happened to be on.

He did not mind not being able to see fireworks light up the night's sky in celebration of his country's Independence Day because funds to buy these fireworks were just not available.

He was indifferent to the absence of privately licensed television stations because he had long since replaced his television with an electronic can opener that has a built in fax modem and an Internet connection kit.

He had not yet begun to think about the year 2000. In fact he was still too preoccupied worrying about the year 1989.

He was not bothered by those people who had no idea what cloning was but who were discussing it and even arguing either for or against it.

He could not have cared any less about those university



graduates who were all out of work, but who nevertheless were happy to have been able to have had a fancy graduation party out on the city streets.

He should not have thought twice about the officer guarding the Mercedes Benz parked right under the no-parking sign.

He did not mind that his boss at work was nearly always busy positioning his false teeth in his mouth. In fact, he took pleasure in watching him, even though he was not the kind of person who took pleasure from the misfortunes of others.

Fatherhood was one of those big things he had started to think about.

He may have been right to have thought about this, for here was something totally different to what he had been used to. Once upon a time he could not imagine what it would be like to be his own dad. And then he became a dad, and had to be patient with the kids and choose their schools and wipe their bottoms. Ready or not, he had arrived, and for bottom-wiping he was prepared.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

• IN 1904, a German invented a mobile basin in the shape of a leather tent fixed round the neck and then filled it with water. In this way a person, standing inside it, can have a bath anywhere.

• THE INHABITANTS of Lima, the capital of Peru, made a five-kilometre long sandwich using 35 kilograms of sardines.

• IN HELENA, Montana, USA, law prohibited anybody to laugh in a boisterous way.

THE FEATHERED turbot can dive 4,000 ft deep below the sea and stop breathing completely for two days.

PIGS' breeders in Pennsylvania depend, in feeding their animals, on left-behind victuals that approximately amount 24,000 tonnes of which the people dispose following the Thanksgiving Day.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** God is the greatest.

Allahu Akbar.

** There is but one God.

La elaha illa Allah.

JOKES

** In God's name.

Bismil'lah.

** Good God.

Subhanal'lah.

** God forbid!

Hasha lil-lah!

** God speed.

Fee amanil'lah.

** Have affiance on God.

Tawakkal alal'lah.

** For the sake of God.

Lewaj'hil'lah.

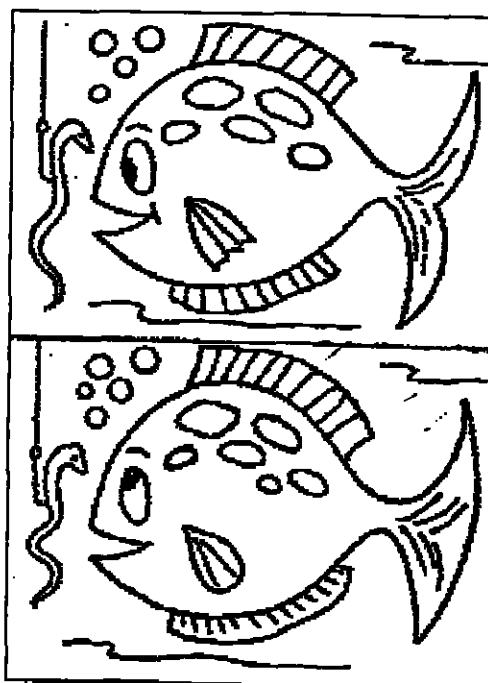
** May God be gracious to you.

An'ama Allahu alaika.

PUZZLES

(A) SPOT THE CHANGE

THERE are some differences between these two pictures. Can you spot them?



BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the origin of the terms

- Tally-Ho
- Rotten Row

2. What is a cordwainer?

3. What is the highest mountain in Europe?

4. What makes the moon shine?

5. How do peanuts grow?

6. What planet in the solar system is nearest to the sun?

7. Whence do we get Chinchilla fur?

8. What are the four chief patterns of clouds?

American Lung Association launches drive on asthma

SAN FRANCISCO, California (R) — The American Lung Association has launched a national campaign to find a cure for asthma, which it called one of the fastest-growing public health threats of the century. "Few people realise that asthma is a lung disease which now has the potential to be cured," John Garrison, managing director of the association, said.

The initiative was unveiled at the American Lung Association/American Thoracic Society's international

conference, a major research forum for respiratory disorders. An alarming rise in asthma-related illnesses and deaths was a central topic at the conference this year.

Named "asthmattack," the new programme aims to raise \$25 million for research into a cure.

The number of Americans with asthma soared 61 per cent between 1982 and 1994, and the number of deaths from asthma has increased 66 per cent since 1979. Currently, one in

every 20 Americans suffers from asthma, and 5,000 die from asthma attacks each year.

Researchers are concerned that rates are even higher among children, especially in poor urban areas. Factors such as cockroach infestation and the presence of irritants in inner-city apartments have been shown to increase incidence. The stress of witnessing violence can lead to more frequent and severe attacks, researchers say. They speculate that the

general rise in asthma rates may be linked to changes in living conditions. Wall-to-wall carpeting, for example, can aggravate allergies that may lead to asthma by harbouring dust mites and other irritants.

The increased amount of time people spend indoors may be a further factor. The Environmental Protection Agency says American children typically are outside for only 1.6 to 2.3 hours a day.

Ali Pretty — artist who takes on Olympian tasks

By Sue Mapp

A BRITISH painter with no formal art training but a driving passion to work as a community artist has already blazoned her way across the world.

Besides taking part in and choreographing shows, Ali Pretty has created hundreds of huge colourful costumes, banners and backdrops for carnivals, festival and performances in countries as disparate as India, Japan, the West Indies and the United States.

Ms. Pretty specialises in decorating fabrics — mostly silks — and is perhaps most renowned for the 42 spectacular guardian angel costumes she produced for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games this year seen by hundreds of millions of television viewers worldwide.

Costume Workshop

She and a small team of assistants worked around the clock for two weeks to make the 23 ft (about 7 metres) costumes in Trinidad, where she has become an integral part of the annual carnival since turning up unannounced seven years ago and volunteering for the costume workshop.

"I go to Trinidad because it's full of skilled artistic people," explains Ali, a 34-year-old Londoner. "Carnival is my main training. You work all hours but you are working with people who can make anything."

Her angel costumes evolved from the spectacular tulip motif costume she had single-handedly painted

overnight to gain first prize in Trinidad's Queen of Carnival competition, 1995. She had interpreted and coloured the original tulip design of Peter Minshall, the doyen of Trinidad carnivals.

Minshall was so pleased with it after he was commissioned to design the costumes for the Atlanta Olympics, he decided to recreate Ali Pretty's tulip version for the guardian angels costumes. Understandably, he put her in charge of the workshop.

The Trinidadians working with her had never painted on silk. The voluminous costumes, fixed on fishing rods, had to be individually fitted to each performer who had to wear a steel backpack to keep the costume the way it was meant to look.

Variety has been the keynote of her career since, fresh with a sociology degree from Bristol University, she flew to India in 1984 with some juggling clubs and little else in her rucksack. She had learned that particular circus skill as well as unicycling while a member of the university mime club. Also, she used to be a street performer in Bristol in between studying.

So hospitable

"In India, I met some people who took me to villages where they would ask if I could sing a song. I can't sing so I said I would do some juggling for them. I would give little displays and they would all gather round. I wanted to give something back because they were all so hospitable to me."

In Delhi she met theatre director Habib Tanvir, who was staging a production of The Pied Piper at the Naya Theatre, Raipur, Madhya Pradesh, and invited her to help. On the first day she found herself running a workshop and doing acrobatics for the play's rats scene with actors with whom she did not share a common word.

Most of them were tribal Indians speaking a Hindi dialect. "We made up ways of communicating and had a fantastic time. I didn't realise that I was breaking all their taboos because I wasn't meant to touch anybody."

Her nomadic existence has taken her back to work in India on eight more occasions, several in Calcutta. She has performed with an English clown group called Double Dutch in Calcutta and around Orissa. Ali's speciality is shadow puppetry.

Southern Indian Dances

"I made my puppets out of cardboard and bits of bamboo and had a little puppet screen made in India which I took round on my bicycle. I did an Indian fairy story. The Ant and the Duck, in the villages."

In the winters of 1992-93 and 1993-94, Ali Pretty coordinated the Winter School, a month-long international programme of residential workshops in performing arts at Kerala, south India. She organised workshops in southern Indian dance forms and designed and made a translu-

cent canopy for the final performance. These assignments in India came as a result of her work with WOMAD — the World of Music, Arts & Dance — from 1987-91, initially as set designer and then as its art and education officer. As well as going to U.K. locations, she toured with WOMAD in Finland and Japan.

"I believe that through the arts you can bring people together," she says. "WOMAD was amazing way of doing that on an international level and I am equally happy doing it in a primary school in Yorkshire." It is little wonder that she is so enthusiastic about the arts. Her mother, Susie Alexander, was a ballerina with the Royal Ballet company.

Since 1990, Ali has made her share of costumes for the Notting Hill Carnival in London — the biggest mardi gras in Europe and enjoyed by a million onlookers. A year ago she went to Cleveland, Ohio, to make batik costumes for the launch parade of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame — including a gigantic flower on wheels that opened to reveal a small girl.

Her batik achievements include making 10 tall sails on booms with wind chimes that were installed in an Oxfordshire nature reserve as part of an arts festival. She may take these wind sculptures to Tobago next February for an exhibition in Art '97 and hopes to go on to Trinidad to design and make costumes for the next big carnival.

Colour and wind are now her prime fascinations. "I



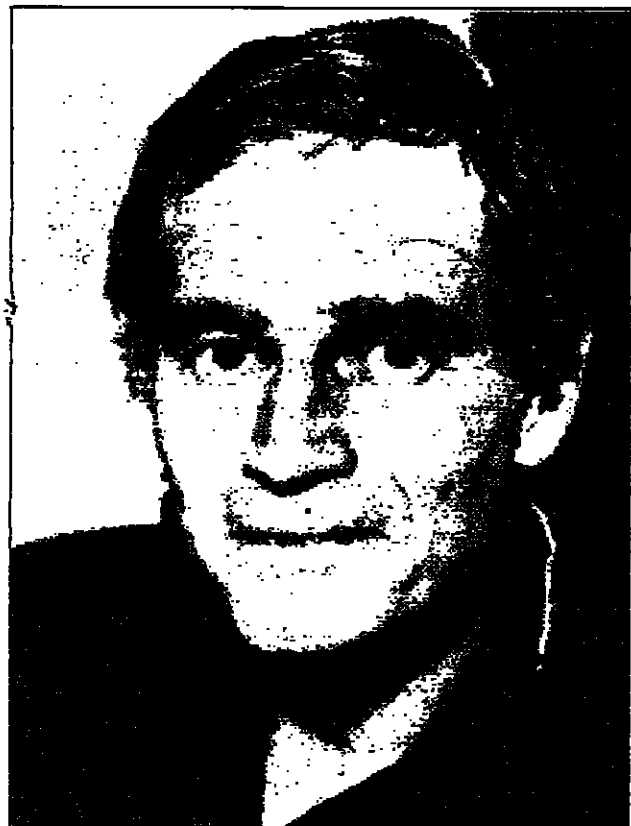
Ali Pretty is pictured on the fantastical stage design she is painting for a backdrop for Peter Pan, being produced in London for pantomime season this winter

want to work using wind and I'm working on performances that are wind-powered. I hope to make wind-

mills with silk sails that generate their own electricity. I'd like to do that internationally and I've been invit-

ed to the 1998 New Zealand Wind Festival as well as the Indian Wind Festival." Ali in all. Ali's electrifying silk

sculptures are a Pretty good way of harnessing the wind for the sake of art — London Press Service.



Charlton Heston

Behold, Charlton Heston critiques the Bible

CHICAGO (R) — Charlton Heston is not really Moses, but he played him 40 years ago in the movies.

The 72-year-old actor is not really a biblical scholar either, but in a book due out in November, he plays one in print.

In Charlton Heston Presents The Bible, the venerable star of Hollywood epic sagas presents his reflections on the Holy Book, accompanied by selected passages from the King James version that he said he abridged himself.

Heston talked about the project recently in an interview with Reuters just before the start here of Bookexpo America, the book publishing industry's annual convention.

"I'm not a rabbi, a priest or a minister. I'm an actor and I tell stories... These are the best stories ever told," said Heston, whose memorable roles have included Moses in The Ten Commandments in 1956, and John the Baptist in The Greatest Story Ever Told in 1965.

The book evolved from an Arts Entertainment cable television series on the Bible that he hosted. The series was converted to video and CD-Rom. Both will be packaged with the new, 288-page book in time for the holiday gift season, according to publisher GT publishing.

The heavily illustrated book will be sold as a coffee-table companion to help families better understand the Bible, GT said.

Heston said he had some research help from Three Wisemen, but put in long hours himself with the biblical text. A Protestant, Heston said his personal beliefs played no part in the project.

He refused to discuss whether he views the best-selling book of all time as a literary text or a valuable historical document or something in between.

"My own religious beliefs are not part of this project and they're just something I don't want to talk about," he said. As drama, Heston said his favourite Bible stories are Genesis, the story of Noah, the birth of Jesus and the crucifixion. "Marvelous stories, just fantastic. You have no idea how strongly those play live," he said.

Movie on Jesus trial to be filmed in Cape Town

By Bryan Pearson
Agence France Presse

JOHANNESBURG — A courtroom-style feature movie focusing on the trial of Jesus Christ which he was sentenced to death and later crucified will be filmed in Cape Town, film producer Roy Rudolph said.

"It will be a hard, fast, gripping and intense story of the court drama," Rudolph, of Cape Town-based Riverstone Productions, told AFP.

"Although a period production, it will be presented in a bold, contemporary way. Language will be contemporary English."

Rudolph added that much of the movie will centre on the interface between high priest Caiaphas, who demanded Jesus be put to death, and Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, who repeatedly declared him innocent.

The screenplay is by Gordon Thomas, whose credits include Voyage Of The Damned, Earthquake, Enola

Gay and The Day The Bubble Burst, and is adapted from his book Trial which sold 850,000 copies in 23 countries.

According to Rudolph, the book has been thoroughly researched and declared historically and theologically accurate by leading academics.

Negotiations are underway, Rudolph said, with some leading international production houses regarding financing of the movie, which will carry a budget of

\$10 to \$12 million — "even more if we manage to draw some top names."

Talks are underway with a number of internationally-acclaimed actors to play key roles in the movie, but the cast will mainly be South African, Rudolph said.

"It will be a talent-driven show," he added.

Co-producer Dianne Beatty said the project marks Riverstone's first major feature film production.

"We see the film as not only a huge commercial

success, but also as a showcase for South Africa's talent," she said.

Trial was initially slated to be shot in Israel in a coproduction involving three international production companies and financed partly by the Israeli government.

Political instability in Israel, however, torpedoed the project, which was then offered to Riverstone by Thomas, who is working with the company on another full-length production.

Mambo, about a lovable elephant saved from culling.

In a statement from his home in Ireland, Thomas welcomed Riverstone's decision to produce Trial.

"The company convinced me that (South Africa) could replicate biblical locations that will not only match those in Israel, but often look better."

Production is due to begin in the middle of next year, with release expected at Easter in 1999.

Music giants turn to high-growth Asian, Latin American markets

By Henry Meyer
Agence France Presse

LONDON — Held back by sluggish sales in their major markets of the United States and Europe, the world's music giants are looking towards the fast-expanding regions of Asia and Latin America to boost their profits.

British music group EMI, which this week announced a big shake-up of its North American activities because of poor international sales by U.S. artists, planned strong hopes for the future on the dynamism of emerging markets.

"Continuing to build on our strong presence in these regions as they take a larger share of the world music market remains a strategic priority," the company said.

In 1996, some 70 per cent of global market growth was generated from emerging markets, particularly Asia and Latin America.

The two regions so far account for just six per cent each of worldwide sales, but "are going to become more and more important," said Catrin Hughes, from the London-based International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI).

Brazil, for example, is already the world's sixth-largest market for music sales.

As piracy is stamped out and economic and political barriers to the presence of multinational record companies come down, the scope for

expansion is increasing, she said.

In the past year, EMI has opened offices in Beijing and Shanghai, and started to launch activities in Indonesia, Lebanon, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador and Paraguay.

Vietnam, still virgin territory for the international music industry, is the next target for EMI, which is in talks with local companies to distribute its recordings in the Communist country.

Dutch music group Polygram, one of EMI's bitterest rivals, in the spring asked Hanoi's permission to team up with two local partners in Vietnam, where the only foreign music available comes on pirated CDs and cassettes smuggled from China.

In both cases, the recording giants intend to distribute their best-selling international artists: EMI has a line-up including the Spice Girls, George Michael and the Beatles, while Polygram boasts U2, Sting and Bon Jovi, among others.

But they also plan later to sign up local talent, reflecting a new trend in the global music industry towards regional stars, with recording companies finding it harder to develop artists with worldwide appeal.

The era of the 1980s global superstars, some of whom have lost popularity in this decade, is partly giving way to indigenous genres of music such as rap and grunge in the U.S. and cantopop in Chinese-speaking countries.

EMI Chairman Sir Colin Southgate said that these local artists were "increasingly important" for music giants such as his own.

Polygram has several Asian stars, such as Hong Kong's Jacky Cheung, who has become one of region's best-sellers, and its successful Latin American artists include Mexico's Grupo Limite.

The top five music companies in the world, which command two-thirds of the global market (EMI, Polygram, Japan's Sony, Warner of the U.S. and Bertelsmann of Germany) used to count on annual sales growth rates of 10 per cent.

But in 1996, worldwide sales of recorded music, based on local currency value, grew by just 5.5 per cent, according to the IFPI.

The main cause was a slowdown in Europe and the United States, partly because of deep discounting by a new breed of music retailers, such as supermarkets.

In Europe and North America, which each command roughly a third of the world market, unit sales grew by four per cent and one per cent, respectively.

In contrast, unit sales in Latin America surged by nearly 30 per cent, while in Asia, growth was nine per cent, led by Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand.

Hong Kong film on China Soong sisters censored

HONG KONG (R) — When Hong Kong movie director Cheung Yuen-Ting finished her latest film, a historical tale of three Chinese women, she was amazed to find China's government censors firmly waving shiny scissors under her nose.

"They cut two major scenes that did a lot of harm to the balance of the picture," Cheung fretted in an interview from behind blue-tinted dark glasses.

Her film, a Hong Kong production made in China, tackles the lives and loves of three sisters from China's prominent Soong family, set against the turmoil of a bloody civil war and Japan's invasion of China during the first half of the 20th century.

"I tried to look at history from a human perspective," Cheung said, adding she wanted to show the sadness of a close family breaking apart when the two younger sisters married men of opposing ideologies.

The middle sister Soong Ching-Ling married Sun Yat-Sen, revered as the father of modern China. Youngest sister Mei-Ling wedded Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, founder of China's rival, Taiwan. The eldest, Ai-Ling, married wealthy financier H.H. Kung.

Any movie made in China about famous Chinese personalities needs approval of the script and the released version from an official film bureau. This bureau ordered the cuts.

The Soong Sisters, filmed in lush, poetic frames, comes across to audiences as a story about little girls who grow up to face immense personal loss.

In researching for her film, Cheung scoured New York library archives for clues to Mei-Ling, who wrote long, flowing letters in perfect English to her American friends about the general she loved.

"She said he has the power and the charisma of a military man but the charm and tenderness of a poet," Cheung related.

Mei-Ling told her friends about how Chiang picked delicate plum blossoms from the mountains and hid them until dinner time to present them to her as a surprise in a reed basket.

Much to her chagrin, Cheung discovered that China is terribly particular about how its national enemies are depicted.

"The censors did not like me to make Chiang Kai-Shek too much of a human with thoughts and feelings and a personal life, so by trying to make Chiang Kai-Shek and Soong Mei-Ling

three dimensional they already found it difficult to accept," she offered as explanation.

If Cheung could have had her way, Mei-Ling was central to Chiang's policy shift in the Chinese city of Xian during the chilly winter of 1936, when he finally formed a pact with the Communists against the Japanese.

That scene, showing Mei-Ling in a bright red Cheong-Sam facing four warlords dressed in black and arguing passionately for a Nationalist-Communist alliance, was snipped out.

"(Actress) Vivian Wu gave the best performance in the entire movie in that scene," Cheung said unhappily.

The deepest cut in all, Chinese government censors sliced about 18 minutes from the film, mainly parts showing Chiang Kai-Shek and Mei-Ling. The censors slashed 10 crucial minutes off the ending, the cut Cheung is most desolate about.

The two sisters, Mei-Ling and Ching-Ling, together visit an army camp to present a united front, symbolic of the Nationalist/Communist pact against Japan.

In a sweeping chase, the sisters are attacked by strafing Japanese bombers. They escape, their plane catches fire and they jump on the last available parachute, clinging to each other accompanied by a lilting music score by composer Kitaro.

"I've been trying to think what was wrong with this ending, some said that it's not true, it never happened, but many of the things in my film never happened," says Cheung.

During the parachute jump, the film flashes back to the past and leaps forward into the future, showing in a brief documentary what happened to China and Taiwan.

"I used computer graphics to generate Chiang Kai-Shek with the crowds retreating to Taiwan," Cheung explained.

She noted with regret the trouble she went to and the money she spent to perfect the special effects. "It's all gone," she lets out her breath in a low, incredulous whistle.

The cuts in her film puzzled Cheung because her original script had been approved in 1993. By the time the film was completed in 1995, the personnel at the Film Bureau had changed.

"The new head of the Film Bureau came and they already were quite shocked to find this film has been made and they asked why such a film was approved in the first place," Cheung said.

Nasty little love disease that has thrived on silence

Genital herpes is on the increase around the world, but many doctors either do not take it seriously or offer insufficient treatment. The writer finds that ignorance, embarrassment and even dishonesty help to spread the virus

By Daniel Nelson

LONDON — Remember genital herpes? A decade ago it was a big story. We were all going to catch it. Then along came AIDS and pushed it off the front pages.

But herpes did not go away. The skin condition, which is incurable at present, has been spreading quietly, its stealth aided by embarrassment. It is now the most common sexually transmitted disease in the Western World.

It is estimated that one in five people in the United States now carries the virus which causes genital herpes. The British figures are one woman in eight and one in 30 men. Worldwide, 107 million people are believed to be infected, but that is almost certainly an underestimate because of under-reporting in developing countries.

Physical symptoms include acute pain and burning sensations during a typical sufferer's five to eight attacks a year. Blisters and sores around the genitals, severe pain when urinating, vaginal discharge and flu-like fever.

Because attacks of herpes always break the skin, they increase the chances of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Research in Tanzania has found a direct link between the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and the spread of AIDS.

And in the words of the International Herpes Management Forum, a U.S.-based network of specialists: "Unlike love, infection lasts for ever."

The herpes virus is acquired through sexual contact — a woman has an 80 per cent risk of contracting the illness from a single sexual contact with an infected man — and can be transmitted

even when an infected person has no symptoms. "The fact this kind of infection is 'invisible' to the sufferers and their partners makes it difficult to control transmission of the virus," says anti-herpes campaign literature.

There are mental effects, too. Sufferers frequently report feelings of shame, disgust, depression, anger and resentment.

Paul, an Australian who wants to remain anonymous because his wife's family do not know she has herpes, says he was shattered when he learned that he had caught the disease.

"I felt like getting into bed with a suit of armour. I was damaged goods. Worst of all, I thought I would pass it on to my kids, who were seven and 11, and I couldn't bear the thought of that."

Curtis Phinney, an American organic chemist, says he was "absolutely devastated" and though it meant "the end of my social life."

Silence and even dishonesty are powerful allies to herpes, he says. Some sufferers feel anger and resentment, "and it's not uncommon for someone to pass it on with malice and aforethought — going to a bar and picking someone up."

Gay Baines, a British therapist who has counselled many people with the illness, says: "It can have a devastating, powerful effect on the quality of a person's life."

Fortunately, the condition is not life-threatening, except in rare cases among newborn babies. Research shows that babies are more likely to be born with the disease if the mother is infected during pregnancy. The incidence of such cases varies enormously: U.S. babies are 20 times more likely to be born with herpes than those in Britain. Doctors do not yet know why.

The fact that herpes is unpleasant but not generally dangerous is perhaps why it is so often ignored by doctors.

"Patients seem to have more concern about the disease than doctors," says Dr. Larry Corry, a professor of laboratory medicine and a member of the International Herpes Management Forum, which has been working on guidelines to help doctors manage the illness.

A Europe-wide survey found that 50 per cent of doctors showed no concern about the illness, 20 per cent regarded it as trivial and 17 per cent were prepared to offer a treatment but were not interested in counselling patients. Only 13 per cent offered both sympathy and an anti-viral treatment instead of merely a soothing

cream.

"It is inadequate that nearly three-quarters of people diagnosed with genital herpes are not offered anti-viral treatment at all," says Dr. Simon Barton, clinical director in HIV/genito-urinary medicine at two London hospitals.

Curtis Phinney had seven attacks in his first year of illness, but "taking preventative treatment has helped me to break the cycle." His attacks are now far less frequent: "I have stopped obsessing about breaking out with genital herpes."

Australian Paul agrees. "I feel normal again," he says. "It allows me to control my condition and not let herpes control me."

Pharmaceutical companies are spending large sums on developing a vaccine. Hopes of success are high, given that infection with facial cold sores — another type of herpes — can confer some immunity to genital herpes later in life.

However, for the time being, the disease is continuing to spread — even allowing for the fact that better diagnosis accounts for some of the apparent increase — and there is still widespread ignorance and disinterest on the part of doctors — Gemini News.

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Genital herpes

After initial infection, the virus travels to the base of the spine

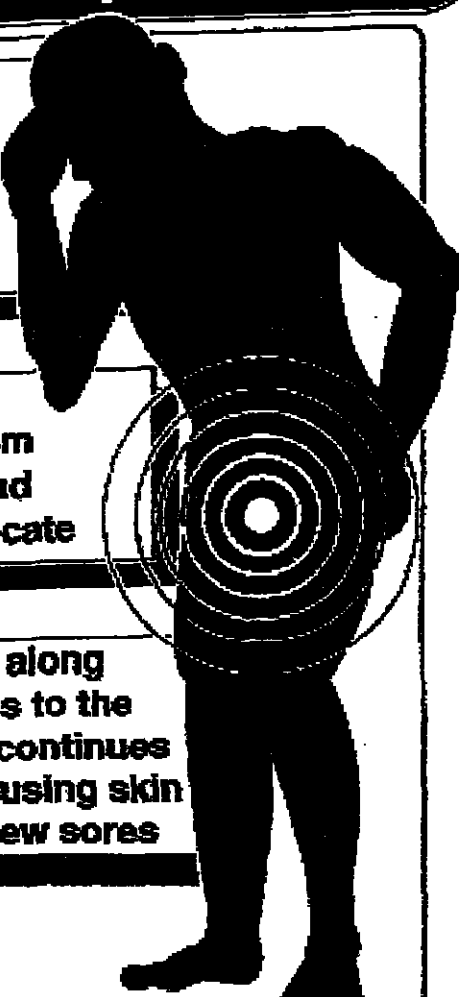
The virus reactivates from time to time and begins to replicate

It travels back along sensory nerves to the skin, where it continues to multiply, causing skin damage and new sores

More than 100m people worldwide carry the genital herpes virus

The disease has increased by over 30% in the last 12 years in the US: one in five are believed to be infected

Up to 80% of people with genital herpes do not know they are infected



Adhesive found useful substitute to stitches

CHICAGO (R) — Researchers said Tuesday a "super-glue"-like adhesive could be a more economical and convenient way to close cuts that normally would require stitches.

A University of Michigan at Ann Arbor study examined 130 adults with 136 lacerations and found the cosmetic results of both treatments were roughly equal after three months.

The advantage of the adhesive was that it did not require a bothersome bandaging that often returns to remove the sutures, the researchers said.

The adhesive compound, octylcyanoacrylate, is similar to the popular "superglue" used to repair broken objects but has not received U.S. government approval. A form of the adhesive has been used extensively in

Canada without problems.

The adhesive should not be used for cuts on the body's joints where flexing could loosen the bond or in areas that undergo frequent washing, the researchers said. But unlike a stitched laceration, the adhesive would not have to be kept completely dry.

U.S. emergency physicians stitch up roughly eleven million traumatic wounds each year.

"Our study demonstrates the effectiveness and advantages of this new, fast, and relatively painless wound closure that may replace the need to suture millions of lacerations a year," study author James Quinn wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Drugs may offer hope for obese, but not soon

LONDON (R) — Wouldn't it be nice — a pill that would allow people to eat what they wanted, as much as they wanted, and not gain weight?

With an epidemic of obesity sweeping industrialised countries like Britain and the United States — and starting to affect other affluent places such as Japan and Hong Kong — both slimmers and drug companies are thinking along the same lines.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of one new drug — Roche Products Ltd's Orlistat (Xenical) — brought renewed excitement. Roche shares soared and experts predicted Xenical could earn more than \$1 billion in annual sales.

But the experts say no drug, not even Xenical, is a magic bullet.

"We need more potent and newer and better anti-obesity drugs," Dr. Nick Finer, an endocrinologist at Luton and Dunstable Hospital near London told a recent conference.

The reasons why obesity drugs are needed are clear. Obese people have higher rates of heart disease and diabetes and cost healthcare systems millions of dollars. One third of all Americans are overweight and a quarter are clinically obese.

In Britain, 15 per cent of men and 16.5 per cent of women aged between 16 and 64 are obese — defined as being 20 per cent above ideal weight or having a body mass index (weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared) of above 30.

Researchers are looking at close to a dozen different approaches to formulating new drugs. The old amphetamine-based drugs have been largely discredited as useless and harmful.

New drug goals fall into three broad areas — curbing appetite, reducing the body's ability to absorb calories and raising the metabolic rate so that what does get eaten is burned off.

The two great hopes of recent months are dexfenfluramine, licensed by Interneuron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and sold under the brand name Redux, and Xenical, now being considered for European licences.

Redux works on serotonin, a neurotransmitter or message-carrying chemical that affects mood. Redux seems to help reduce appetite — but scientists admit they do not yet understand the exact mechanism.

But consumers were evidently desperate for such a drug — more than a million prescriptions were written for it in the first three months after U.S. approval last year.

Orlistat (Xenical) takes a different route. By limiting how much fat the body absorbs, it cuts calories and theoretically should help slimmers keep weight off.

Five thousand patients put on a "modest" fat-reduced diet lost on average 8.5 per cent of their body weight over a year. Those given a placebo but put on the diet lost an average of 5.4 per cent.

It does have side-effects, which could be good or bad depending on how you look at them.

"If a patient takes a high-fat meal, relatively quickly afterwards they get a diarrhoeal effect," said Dr. Stuart Dollow of the Medical Department of Roche Products Ltd. (U.K.). "It does modify behaviour."

But so far bulge is winning the battle experts agree the effects of drugs developed so far are modest — and do not last for long.

"All drugs show the same profile," said Gareth Williams, an expert in diabetes at the University of Liverpool. "First weight drops by eight to 10 kilograms, then after six months it slowly drifts back up."

Perhaps people stopped taking the drugs after that, or perhaps the body adjusted, he said. "We simply don't know why these drugs lose their effects."

Scientists seeking an answer are looking to molecular biology to find more and more specific targets.

Dr. Jon Arch, an expert in vascular biology at SmithKline Beecham, said his company's efforts targeting one tiny part of muscle cells known as the beta-3 adrenoceptor were disappointing so far.

"These drugs are remarkably effective in rodents but not in man," he said. "Either they just don't get absorbed

or they get metabolised by the liver or they get kicked out by the kidneys."

Another possible target is uncoupling protein (UCP), which plays a vital role in metabolism by helping convert fat into body heat. Mice genetically engineered to lack UCP do not become obese, even when fed a high-fat diet.

Researchers are also finding out more about the possible genetic causes behind obesity, having identified the OB (obesity) gene and the gene for leptin, which is secreted from fat cells and helps communicate with the brain as it regulates feeding behaviour, metabolism and energy levels.

Then there is neuropeptide Y, "it is probably one of the key brain chemicals that regulates energy intake and expenditure in rodents," Dr. Williams said. "It has been found to induce obesity when given experimentally to rodents. But we can't do that in humans so we don't know whether it does it in them."

Could it all be down to mood? Many of the drugs target the same areas as anti-depressants, which Dr. Williams finds interesting. "I guess it's all wired up together somehow," he said, noting that depressed people often either overeat or under-eat.

"There's a lot more basic physiology to get to grips with."

Despite the careful focus of many of the drugs, it is becoming increasingly clear that a variety of causes — genetic, behavioural and biochemical — unite to cause obesity.

Despite all the research into drugs, it is agreed that careful eating is the most effective way to lose weight.

"We do know that if we can get people to change their habits, there is nothing magic about it and they can lose weight," said Andrew Prentice, head of energy metabolism at the Medical Research Council's Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre in Cambridge.

"A 2,000 calorie (per day) diet in men could cause considerable weight loss." It could all be down to evolution. "I think we have been selected for an extremely efficient metabolism," said Leslie Kozak of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Humans evolved through ice ages, droughts and other times of uncertain food supply. Those who could lay down a good supply of blubber in good times would be more likely to survive lean times — and pass on their genes.

It could take a long time to find a drug that could counteract the effects of hundreds of thousands of years of evolution.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CLUED IN
By Vivian O. Collins

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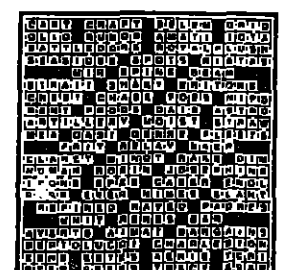
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- 27 John Paul II
- 28 Kelp
- 29 Follows
- 31 Lasso holder
- 32 Took to court
- 34 Goddess of agriculture
- 35 Dilem or Helen
- 37 Lousy dessert
- 40 Fighters

Diagrams, 17x17
By Frances Burton

ACROSS

- 1 War god
- 2 Fortified part
- 3 Eel
- 5 Surroundings
- 13 "I poor Yoda."
- 15 Nick Charles' dog
- 16 Quene
- 17 Aviator
- 18 Heptagon
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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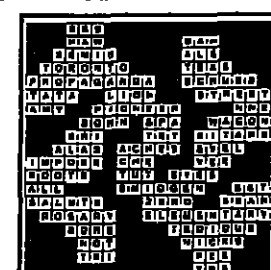
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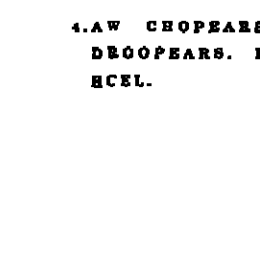
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Asked on social club's amateur night if she is a singer, funny lady answers, "No, but I can hum like a sewing machine!"
2. French politician replies to questions of quorums reporter with a wee "oui."
3. You would more likely find fewer bananas than bikkies in the Bahamas.
4. Nerdy farmhand's gag: If you kid someone, you'll likely get his goat.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. UAFNFP, DWE OLD SAWZ "GUON FRUNT

BUSN LA LHMWZ, TEG FUF DWE SAWZ

FMEUG FRUNT BUSN TLALALT?

— By Barbara J. Bang

2. BTY AWIL YTPUR EWI LTE KSIU TSDB WGO

ESZM ZTYNGR SI FTFMP WGFWDHSD

TPUMPT? BPNM? TIM: WORDMASTER.

— By Ed Haddock

3. KNOWSFX GUY: "WSS FIOZ KUZDIR DUUM

USM TANR'E-AWE-PNOI."

— By K.C. Doyle

4. AW CHOPERS AG ELK CHOPERS WHY

DEOOPERS. DRY ROT KVEL SKET C

BCEL.

— By Duane H. McGee

ANSWERS PUZZLES

(B) PARTNERS

1. Camera - film.
2. Gun - bullet.
3. Pen - ink.
4. Brace - bit.
5. Bow - arrow.
6. Ball - bat.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. (a) From the French il est alle-oh! meaning "gone away."
- (b) From the French Route du Roi, meaning the King's Drive.
2. A shoemaker.
3. Mont Blanc.
4. The reflection of the rays from the sun.
5. In the earth on the root of a plant.
6. Mercury.
7. From a small South American rodent with pale grey fur.
8. Cumulus, stratus, cirrus and nimbus.

24 Iraqis killed in Turkish incursion

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Twenty-four Iraqis have been killed in the three-week-old Turkish incursion into the Kurdish north of the country, an official Iraqi newspaper said Wednesday.

Al Iraq, which is run by Kurdish parties loyal to Baghdad, said 24 civilians were killed and 19 others injured in Turkish shelling and air raids between May 29 and 31.

The bombing has "destroyed homes and a church, and forced the inhabitants of villages to flee," it said.

Baghdad newspapers have already reported that 20 Iraqi Kurds were killed or injured last week in a Turkish air raid on villages in the Rawanduz region, near the main Kurdish city of Erbil.

Al Iraq also said that U.S. military officers were

"supervising the Turkish invasion" from the disused airport of Bamemi inside northern Iraq near the Turkish border.

Some 30,000 Turkish troops have been deployed in northern Iraq in an operation launched on May 14 to wipe out bases of the Turkish Kurd separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Turkey says its army has killed more than 2,000 PKK guerrillas, while the PKK itself acknowledges the loss of less than 100 fighters.

The north has been held by Iraqi Kurd factions, in defiance of Baghdad, since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait. U.S. and allied warplanes based in southeast Turkey patrol the skies to protect Iraqi Kurds from Baghdad.

U.N. ballistic missile teams in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Two teams of United Nations ballistic missile experts are in Baghdad trying to see whether Iraq is still keeping any banned rockets in its arsenal, a U.N. arms official said Wednesday.

Creona Lavery, special assistant to the director of the Baghdad ongoing monitoring and verification centre, said the teams, which arrived Monday, comprised 30 members and intended to stay for at least a week.

Checking for banned missiles is among unresolved issues between Iraq and the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with disarming it under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire conditions.

UNSCOM has not yet made public the results of its analysis of about 100 Iraqi missiles it had sent to laboratories in the United States and France last April.

Under the ceasefire terms Iraq is not allowed to keep or produce missiles with ranges greater than 150 kilometres or the means to produce them. UNSCOM has said it still cannot ascertain that Baghdad does not keep any such missiles.

Mr. Lavery said the two teams, one headed by American Scott Ritter and the other by Frenchman Foad Al-Khatib, would also prepare for the last visit by UNSCOM's current chairman Rolf Ekous to Baghdad late this month.

Australia's U.N. ambassador, Richard Butler, will replace Mr. Ekous as UNSCOM chairman in July.

UNSCOM must certify that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction before the United Nations will lift curbs on Iraqi oil exports, although Baghdad is allowed limited oil exports under a humanitarian deal.

Famine looming in southwestern Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A Roman Catholic clergyman appealed Tuesday to aid organisations to send food and medicine to a southwestern Sudanese town threatened with famine and disease.

Monsignor Caesar Mazzolari, the Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek Diocese, made the appeal on return to his base in Nairobi from Rumbek, about 1,300 kilometres from Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

Mr. Mazzolari, who assumed office in 1990, was visiting Rumbek for the first time in 10 years. The visit became possible after the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) captured the town April 31.

"Lack of immediate concern could degenerate easily into severe hunger, famine and epidemics," Mr. Mazzolari said in a statement.

He said the only doctor, a Sudanese army prisoner of war, and a rebel medic have no medicine to treat patients, several of whom are suffering from cerebral malaria.

Mr. Mazzolari cited the local SPLA commander, Deng Akok, as saying that between 10,000 and 15,000 people have moved into Rumbek from surrounding villages since the town was captured.

Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), a U.N. umbrella organisation for aid agencies in Sudan, has been unable to send food and medical supplies to the area because the government has denied it landing rights.

The U.N. organisation, which operates in rebel and government-controlled areas, has an agreement that requires it to seek permission from Khartoum for every flight.

Dan Effie, a liaison officer with the Norwegian Peoples' Aid Relief organisation, which is not under OLS, said although his group does not need permission to travel to the region, it doesn't have the funds to pay for the food or the transport.

Mr. Effie said the government recently bombed the airstrip in Rumbek, and some of the bombs did not explode.

"We can't land there even if we had the supplies," he said.

Mr. Mazzolari quoted SPLA local administrator Paul Mayom Akoc as saying there is an urgent need for road repairs "so that humanitarian assistance can be brought by land all year."

The rebels launched a major offensive early in March and have captured a series of towns.

The rebels in the predominantly animist and Christian south first took up arms shortly after the country's 1956 independence from joint Egyptian and British rule to press for increased development and autonomy from the Arab and Muslim north.

The rebellion ended with an agreement for a federal system in 1972 but resumed in 1983 after the north reneged. An estimated 1.3 million people have died from disease, fighting and floods in the second round of fighting.

after several weeks.

The report said Human Rights Watch also had first-hand testimony that Syrian forces held Lebanese in detention centres in Lebanon or Syria to pressure them to collaborate with them.

"Human Rights Watch calls on the Lebanese government to take firm and transparent measures to end abuses in Lebanon at the hands of Syrian security forces, and to ensure that Lebanese military and security authorities in no manner participate in or facilitate 'disappearances' on Lebanese soil," the group said.

detention facilities in at least five places in Lebanon and a joint centre with Lebanese intelligence at Hazmeh on the edge of Beirut, it said.

It cited the abductions of two Palestinians this year.

"Lebanese citizens and stateless Palestinians continue to 'disappear' in Lebanon, taken into custody there by Syrian security forces and then transferred to and detained in Syria, perpetuating a climate of fear," it said.

The two Palestinians, held in January and March, were taken to Damascus for interrogation after detention in Beirut and the eastern Bekaa Valley. Both were released

after several weeks.

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Austrian troops probably killed by Hizbollah — TV

VIENNA (AFP) — Two Austrian U.N. soldiers who were found dead on the Golan Heights were "probably victims" of an attack by Islamic militants from Hizbollah, Austrian National Television ORF reported Tuesday.

Hizbollah, supported by Iran and Syria, probably acted in order to denounce "the U.N. for taking sides with Israel," a correspondent reported from the scene of the attack without giving any sources for his claims.

The bodies of the soldiers, aged 26 and 40, were found Friday with valuable items still on them, which suggests they were not victims of a crime, the correspondent said.

An Austrian officer told Austrian Radio Sunday that an autopsy had revealed that the two soldiers had been shot at point blank range, but that they had not shot each other.

The bodies of the soldiers, who served in the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) on

the Golan, will be flown home to Austria Wednesday, he said.

An official autopsy report will be released in the next few days, he added.

The soldiers' bodies were found by a patrol of Austrian U.N. soldiers in the demilitarised buffer zone dividing Syrian and Israeli lines on the Golan plateau around eight kilometres north of the Druze town of Majd Al Shams.

A spokesman for the Austrian defence ministry in Vienna said Friday that the

exact circumstances surrounding the deaths of the men, a junior officer and a soldier, were still unclear.

It is the first incident since the U.N. force was set up in May 1974 under a disengagement accord following the October 1973 war.

UNDOF has a total of 1,200 soldiers including 400 from Austria and is charged with ensuring the two sides remain disengaged and that the ceasefire agreement is not broken.

Iran orders electron accelerator

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation has placed an order for an electron accelerator to be used for civilian industrial purposes, newspapers reported here Tuesday. They said the device, costing \$33 million, would be built with the help of French and Belgian technicians for "various industrial uses" in the central city of Yazd.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said meanwhile during a tour of Yazd Tuesday that his country had made progress in nuclear technology. "Such advances have allowed us 'headways' into the international market in agricultural and medical fields," he said in a speech to inaugurate a Research Centre into radioactivity.

"It is every country's right to have access to nuclear technology for peaceful ends, especially in agricultural and medical sectors," the president said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

The United States and Israel have accused Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, a charge vehemently denied here.

Crown Prince and Saud Al Faisal discuss peace...

(Continued from page 1)

that the two sides had the same view on this issue.

"Frankly saying, everybody is in pain not only in Jordan or in Saudi Arabia but also every citizen in the Arab World, which considers peace as a strategic choice, because of this stagnation. Arab countries bear no responsibility. We have put the pillars for peace that would preserve the rights of all parties... frankly saying, Arab countries are willing and able to continue the peace process, but the major obstacle is the Israeli government's position," Prince Saud said.

The Saudi official denied any Saudi mediation to resume diplomatic ties between Jordan and Kuwait adding that he conveyed the "greetings" of Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah

Al Ahmad, to Foreign Minister Fayed Tarawneh, adding that there is no need for such mediation between Jordan and the Gulf emirate.

The Saudi official reaffirmed his country's condemnation of the Turkish incursion in Northern Iraq and called for preserving the unity and sovereignty of Iraqi territories.

Responding to a question on Saudi Arabia's criticism of the Turkish incursion, at the same time his country's rejection of any moves to lift or at least ease the six-year-old sanctions on Iraq, Prince Saud said that despite political differences with Iraq, his country was and still is against partition of its northern neighbour's sovereign territory.

"I feel surprised to see people finding it strange that Saudi Arabia is cautious on the unity and independence

of Iraq. In the darkest moment of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Saudi people were with the Iraqi people whom we consider victims like us of that occupation. From this angle, there was a clear position by the government of Saudi Arabia in the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council to condemn the Turkish incursion inside Iraqi territories," Prince Saud said.

Answering a question whether his country supports convening an Arab summit to discuss recent developments in the region, he said that "an Arab summit was held and we were happy to have corresponding views and the resolutions we took covers the present stage. But if new things arise that require an Arab summit we are ready for consultations over this issue," Prince Saud said before he left the Kingdom.

Arafat, Moratinos study peace...

(Continued from page 1)

break the impasse and Mr. Mubarak dispatched on Monday his senior political advisor Osama Al Baz to Washington for talks with U.S. officials.

"We're coming close," Mr. Moratinos said after talks Tuesday with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"I think there will be a breakthrough in the Israeli position despite the continu-

ation of work at Jabal Abu Ghneim," he said referring to the Jewish settlement in March.

Mr. Mubarak also held a summit meeting last week with Mr. Netanyahu in the Red Sea resort of Sharm Al Sheikh to explore ways of bringing the two sides back to the negotiating table.

On Monday Mr. Baz said he was hopeful of a new opening in the peace process but that nothing had crys-

talised yet.

The PNA is demanding a halt to the construction before resuming negotiations with Israel but Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing administration repeatedly rejected this request.

Mr. Erekat, who also arrived in Egypt late Tuesday, was less upbeat than the EU diplomat, saying "it is too early to judge" if the European and Egyptian efforts will bear fruit.

Israeli army, Hizbollah clash...

(Continued from page 1)

told AFP in a reference to the ceasefire agreement of last year which put an end to Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" offensive against Hizbollah.

The Israeli onslaught left 175 people, mostly civilians, dead and the accord bans combatants on both sides from targeting civilians or launching attacks

from civilian areas. On May 6, two Lebanese civilians were killed by similar bombs near the town of Nabatieh, facing the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The international committee monitoring the truce called on Israel and Hizbollah to stop planting explosive charges in civilian-inhabited regions.

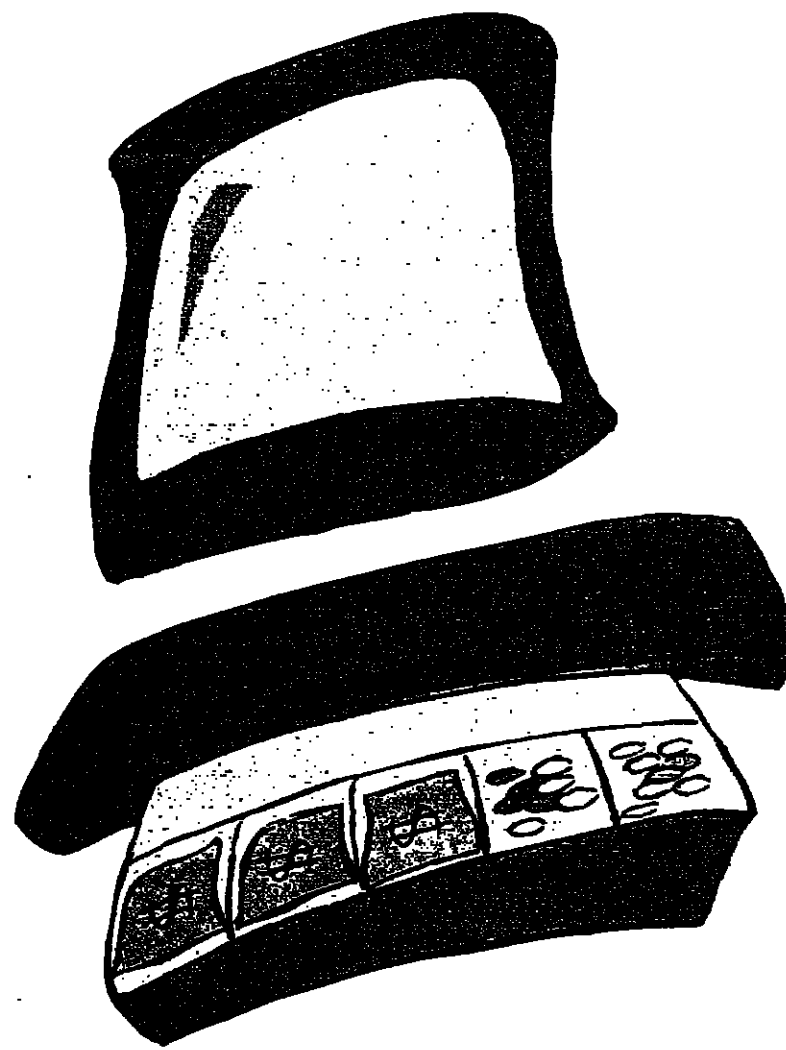
But three more bombs blew up less than two weeks later on the edge of the western sector of the border zone, without causing casualties.

A Lebanese military expert accused Israel and the SLA, often the target of bomb attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas, of resorting to the same tactics as the Shiite Muslim group.

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Senior Palestinian official says donors behind in payments of \$3.4b in aid

AL RAM, West Bank (R) — Donor countries are behind in delivering \$3.4 billion in aid pledged to Palestinians after the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a landmark 1993 peace deal with Israel, a senior Palestinian official said Tuesday.

Speaking ahead of the donor countries' annual meeting in Washington on Thursday, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Anis Al Qaq said donor countries had delivered about \$1.5 billion of the five-year aid package

promised in 1993.

"It is 40 per cent and we are now almost in the fifth year. So actually, if we are going through years...we should have 80 per cent disbursement," Mr. Qaq told a news conference.

Donor countries pledged \$2.4 billion after the historic handshake between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn in September 1993. They raised the pledges later to \$3.4 billion.

Mr. Qaq said the Palestin-

ian National Authority (PNA) will ask donor countries to meet their commitments, review aid programmes and consider covering a \$52 million deficit in the 1997 budget.

"We still need donor countries to fulfil their commitment," he said.

Mr. Qaq said that a combination of bureaucratic delays by donor countries, Israeli restrictions and technical problems within the PNA contributed to the delay.

He said about only one-third of the funds received by the authority went to

public sector development. The rest was used to cover the PNA's operating costs, technical assistance, emergency programmes resulting from Israeli closures and local non-governmental organisations.

The official said the PNA planned to request \$800 million in aid for infrastructure development at the Washington meeting.

Mr. Qaq said the West Bank and Gaza Strip still needed more than \$1.5 billion in funds to develop roads and infrastructure for water, electricity and education.

He said Japan topped donor countries in delivering all \$232 million it had pledged, followed by the United States which handed over \$207 million out of \$296 million pledged. The European Union paid \$230 million out of \$357 million pledged, Mr. Qaq said.

The official said a report on corruption and squandering of public funds issued last month by Arafat's auditing office had prompted concern among donor countries but had not resulted in any reduction of aid.

The \$326 million allegedly squandered by some ministers last year did not involve donor funds, he said. "We have not been informed officially that any country was planning to retract its aid," he said.

JVTC

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- 1- LOST WORLD (JURASSIC PARK 2).
- 2- ADDICTED TO LOVE (Meg Ryan).
- 3- NIGHT FALL ON MANHATTAN (Andy Garcia).
- 4- SECOND JUNGLE BOOK (Bill Campbell).
- 5- FATHER'S DAY (Robin Williams).
- 6- HIGH SCHOOL REUNION (Mira Sorvino).
- 7- HAMLET (Kenneth Branagh).
- 8- BREAKDOWN (Kurt Russell).
- 9- ANACONDA (John Voight).
- 10- SECOND CIVIL WAR (Beau Bridges).

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Everything will be just the opposite of your expectations this morning, so quickly rearrange your plans. Lead a hand to your fellow associates with a new project and thereby you can gain the recognition of a superior.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have made a plan which you feel is perfect today, however, if you look more closely, you will find an error which could prove to be quite costly. Later this evening will be good for seeing friends at recreational activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you attend a business meeting today, be sure to maintain your self control and thereby avoid any difficulties. Avoid an irate superior who is looking for a scapegoat to put any difficulties upon, so be on your guard.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be very affectionate at home today with your loved ones and thereby any disagreements of any kind. Be wary of an usually reliable fellow associate who could mislead you in your career activities and make them difficult.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is very important that you use great care in motion of any kind today, especially on the highways. Be sure you don't make any sarcastic remarks or you could find yourself in a difficult situation which should be avoided.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A trusted adviser may be a bit offbase today, so consider this person's suggestions carefully. Try to rely more on your own judgement later this evening, especially when it concerns career activities for the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may feel somewhat restless today, and you could easily overreact to tense situation, so try to calm down and avoid a costly error which should be avoided. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Face your difficulties head-on today, and stop trying to sidestep them. Suggest for a greedy person who is causing you a serious distress. Later will be a good time to meet with a bigwig and discuss a method of operation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be cautious in the handling of financial affairs today, however, you should not rely on others to spot errors for you. Live up to your potential and thereby you can gain recognition from those in authority.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you go out socially later this evening, you should not try to force your opinions on anyone. Instead, listen considerably and offer polite comments which will be appreciated by fellow associates who can be helpful at another.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Before you try to get others involved today, check out a new financial venture carefully and avoid any difficulties. Be wary of a new acquaintance who you feel is only out for his or her best interests without looking out for yours.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have many responsibilities which are worrying you today, however, handle them conscientiously. Be sure to think before you speak or you could find yourself in a difficult situation which should be avoided.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLS	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7295	0.6144	1.4444	116.16	1.3760	1698.40	1.9455	5.8310
DE Mark	0.5782	-	0.3540	0.8340	67.19	0.7951	981.51	1.1249	3.3726
GB Sterling	1.6276	2.8168	-	2.3512	169.06	2.2398	2764.66	3.1669	9.4669
CH Franc	0.6923	1.1950	0.4242	-	86.40	0.9505	1175.36	134.67	4.0294
JP Yen	0.0086	1.4880	0.5282	1.2446	-	1.1837	14.61	167.42	5.0167
CA Dollar	0.7267	1.2327	0.4447	1.0282	1.18	-	1214.82	1.3862	4.1603
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0171	0.3612	0.0851	1464.34	0.8094	-	11.45	3.4309
NL Guilder	0.5140	88.85	0.3153	74.31	59.65	0.7066	872.19	-	2.9950
FR Franc	0.1715	0.2965	0.1063	24.7981	19.89	0.2359	33.37	33.3700	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6398	0.3028	3.6725	1538.50	3.3695
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2572	0.5324	5.1410	0.4277	5.1871	2170.20	4.7874
GB Sterling	0.2668	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.8007	0.98	409.69	0.9038
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.3488	-	9.66	0.8032	9.74	4075.92	8.9913
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0832	1.01	422.14	0.9312
Kuwait Dinar	3.3025	2.3382	12.3857	1.2449	12.02	-	12.13	5074.31	9.9312
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0206	0.9911	0.0825	-	418.38	0.9229
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4608	2.4409	0.2453	2.3689	0.1971	2.3902	-	2.2068
Egyptian	0.2850	0.2089	1.1065	0.1112	1.0739	0.0893	1.0835	453.32	-

Energy			Mid-East Currencies				
Oil	Last	Settle	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Brent	18.75	18.50	SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4614	0.16382	30.9962
WT Texa	20.35	20.30	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.47123	0.1673	31.6546
Bonny	18.75	18.50	KW Dinar	3.3025	5.71429	2.82922	33.7377
Dubai	18.10	18.18	BH Dinar	0.3770	4.99137	1.62973	308.356
UL Gas	0.00	208.00	CY Pound	1.9389	3.3528	1.1903	2.8042

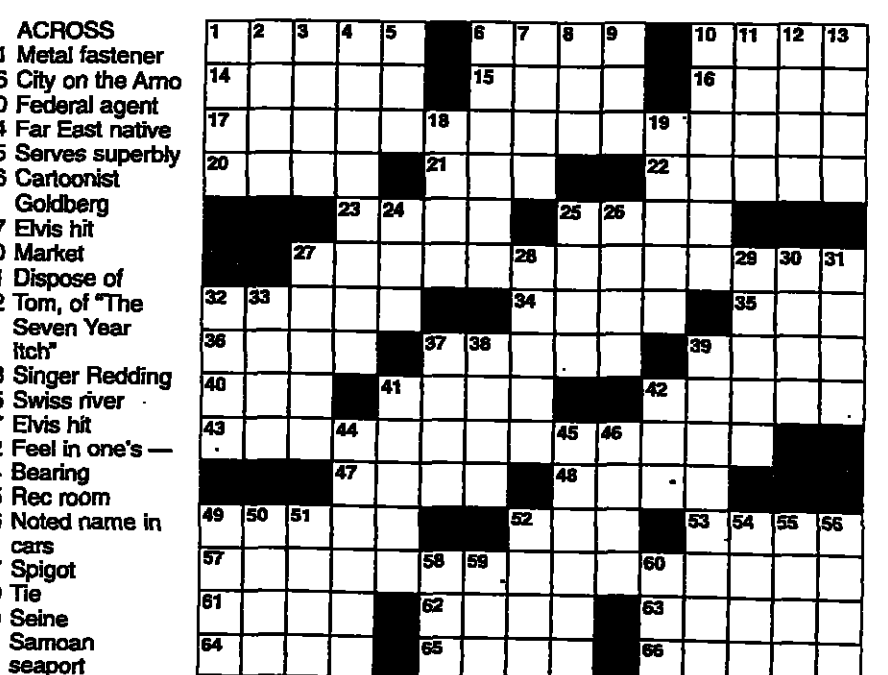
Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Metal	Unit	Price	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Gold (oz's)	341.7	342.2	USD	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.58
Silver (oz's)	4.74	4.78	GBP	6.41	6.44	6.56	6.68
Platinum (oz's)	425	435	JPY	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.58
AL (3 Months)	1590	1592	DEM	2.88	2.88	2.94	3.22
CU (3 Months)	2473	2474	FRF	3.23	3.34	3.39	3.48
Zinc (3 Months)	1345	1346	CHF	0.96	1.28	1.40	1.31
Lead (3 Months)	625	627	ITL	6.80	6.78	6.71	6.50
Ni (3 Months)	7150	7160					

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pt. Chg
New York	DOW JONES	7300.14	-12.01	-0.16	7312.15	7280.22	7312.15
New York	S&P 500	843.45	-2.03	-0.24	845.31	840.95	845.48
London	FT-SE 100	4587.1	-0.7	-0.02	4585.9	4553.3	4587.8
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20611.66	48.4	0.24	20707.8	20512.3	20563.2
Paris	CAC 40	2638.37	10.88	0.41	2644.22	2613.25	2624.49
Frankfurt	DAX	3661.84	36.1	1	3669.12	3644.34	3625.74

Energy			JOD Cross Rates				
Commodity	Last	Settle	Currency	Buy	Sell		
Coffee (c/lbs)	260.33	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1467	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1559	1.1617		
Sugar (\$/ton)	333.1	Spot	DE Mark	0.409	0.411		
Wheat (\$/ton)	151	Spot	CH Franc	0.4915	0.493		
Soya (c/lbs)	23.6	Spot	FR Franc	0.1215	0.1219		
Tea (kg/kg)	155	Spot	JP Yen	0.8063	0.8113		
Barley (\$/bsh)	6	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3635	0.3652		
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	IT Lira	0.4161	0.4182		

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword



by Kenneth Witte

hawkeye portrayer	11 Remote button
Places	12 Biblical victim
Omni, for one	13 Carter of song
Feel poorly	18 Ship's slammer
Chore	19 Great blue, for one
Elvis hit	24 "— the season..."
British composer	25 Indigo
Blissful place	26 Tropical tree
Parsley plant	27 "— all a good night"
Suds	28 Eskimo craft
Spring period	29 Disgrace
Silly ones	30 See 20A
DOWN	31 Remnants
Stadium sounds	32 Big Ben sound
Words of understanding	33 Toast topping

STONEHENGE	AFAR
MACADAMIAS	NILE
AMENDMENTS	IRON
SPA	YARE
ESTEE	
HANDILY	SNERD
INS	BACCARAT
ABANG	GORES
ILK	
LONE	SILAS
CLIO	
MAE	BYRON
GALES	
ACCOUNTS	CAN
DUTCH	BALANCE
LOTTO	MARU
ALY	
RATA	PEACEMAKER
OLEG	ATMOSPHERE
BASE	LOANSHARKS

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will have an opportunity today to increase both your financial and employment status, so keep your eyes open. Be sure to drive carefully while on the highway and thereby avoid any difficulties which could be present.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your recreational plans may be suddenly altered today, however, the change is for the best, so go along with it. Maintain peace and harmony at home with your loved ones so that there won't be any difficult situations present.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study the situation at home today, and discover the right way to improve conditions there. Later this evening will be a good time to entertain some friends in your home and show them a pleasant time with those who reside there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can communicate well with others today, so let your friends know what you want. Remain optimistic about the days ahead and what fellow associates can do to make your career activities more successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An important matter will come up today which requires careful study on your part, so look closely at what are the specific requirements. Be careful in motion of any kind, especially driving on the highway, and thereby avoid any difficulties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may be confused about how to handle a personal matter today, however, if you are practical and honest, it will work out nicely for all involved in your career activities. Later this evening will be good for seeing good friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you work out a schedule and stick to it in an orderly manner today, your tasks will seem much easier. Be more thoughtful of your mate and he or she will appreciate the gesture with some special activity you will enjoy.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your friends can be very helpful to you today in gaining your personal goals, however, you should not be afraid to rely on your own fine abilities. Later this evening will be a good time to seek out advice from fellow associates.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If a superior make some suggestions to you today, give them thorough consideration and pick those which will offer the best opportunity for success. Go out on the town with friends tonight and have yourself a wonderful time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new acquaintance can show you how to proceed today in seeking your goals. That short trip you have in mind can increase your prosperity, so make the best of this opportunity for success and for the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Show a bit more enthusiasm than usual today in your career activities and you will reap some fine benefits. Come to an understanding with your mate later this evening and thereby you avoid any difficulties ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have a long talk today with a fellow associate and reach a decision regarding a troubling project. Go out and get some healthful exercise later this evening with your loved ones and you all will feel better.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

BPWC ready to launch programme to help Jordanian women enter the business world

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a push to help women enter the sphere of entrepreneurship, the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) will this month launch a business incubator service for Jordanian women, said Rasha Barghouty, a BPWC staff member.

The project, which will be officially inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor on June 11, is in response to the global realisation of the importance of promoting and empowering small and medium size enterprises and in acknowledgment of the small business role in favouring employment, especially among women, according to the BPWC statement.

"The project will encourage women to become financially independent and have more trust in themselves, especially that some ladies already have the financial means. With the help of

the project they could become more business-oriented," said Ms. Barghouty.

The business incubators will work on two parallel levels. The first is the practical level which the women will conduct on their own under the supervision of the club.

The second is the counselling level which will provide the women with business and legal counselling, financial bank guarantees and information on issues related to women, according to Ms. Barghouty.

The small business counselling centre will offer its services to those already engaged in business projects and to potential women entrepreneurs.

The objective of the centre is to improve internal efficiency, upgrade organisational practices, empower decision-making procedures, provide women with information concerning access to funds and credit facilities and to bridge the gap between women entrepreneurs and all government and international organisations concerned with

small businesses.

The centre will also organise systematic training for women in relation to their most urgent needs such as courses in accounting, marketing and pricing.

The women will receive lectures and direct guidance from experts who will advise them to put a business plan and conduct a feasibility study, said Ms. Barghouty. She added that because the BPWC is a neutral party, the women will accept its recommendations.

The club, with the finan-

cial assistance of the Japanese government, has a micro facility that provides the physical work space, shared facilities and access to technical and business support service in one integrated package.

The incubator facility will assist in reducing initial cost and operating expenses as well as providing access to a strong services sector of professionals to help overcome management shortcomings.

"We built 11 cubical

offices, which will be rented for the women to facilitate launching their business," said Ms. Barghouty. She added that each working space is provided with computers, access to a telephone system and a fax machine.

As for the conditions for the use of the cubical offices, the club will by next month set a number of rules. "So far we are still discussing the rules," Ms. Barghouty said.

The club, which has been organising training courses on "how to set your own business" will

also provide the women with legal information in relation to business laws, procedures for rent agreements and bank conditions.

In the first stages, the BPWC will facilitate bank loans for the financially feasible projects. By the second stage, "we hope the BPWC will be able to provide the loans directly," said Ms. Barghouty.

"We would like to be able to provide the loans for small business in order to decrease the amount of interest," said Ms. Barghouty.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BOLING BANC CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 04/06/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OFFER PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	11.8	1.57	2	100	25550	255.50	255.50	-	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	82	45195	93183	2.15	2.06	-0.09	
3.500	4.100	CHICO ARABIAN BANK	11.4	2.71	4	4130	22708	5.50	5.30	-0.20	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	8	3200	9920	3.12	3.10	-0.02	
1.210	0.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	63.1	0.00	8	2550	2480	9.95	9.96	0.01	
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	8.4	7.42	4	800	1894	2.29	2.28	-0.01	
5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.90	19	5772	28443	4.91	4.97	0.06	
2.950	2.440	JOR. KIWATY BANK	10.6	0.00	21	11185	31326	2.84	2.98	0.14	
1.050	0.780	JOR. COOP. BANK	8	0.00	8	9050	7240	8.80	8.80	-	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.2	3.22	5	705	2636	3.77	3.73	-0.04	
2.000	1.140	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	7	0.00	4	1250	1458	1.20	1.15	-0.05	
3.800	3.000	JOR. INT. FCM BANK	20.2	0.00	300	845	3045	3.15	3.14	-0.01	
2.850	1.000	BEIT AL-HAQ (BEITHA)	8	12.40	12	2450	2979	1.27	1.21	-0.06	
1.440	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	2	1100	1232	1.13	1.12	-0.01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
2.640	1.850	YARMOUK INSUR.	9.8	8.11	1	500	925	1.85	1.85	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
1.820	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.2	5.92	35	12159	20622	1.73	1.69	-0.04	
1.540	1.180	TRID ELECTRICITY	8.0	8.52	3	8530	13116	1.37	1.35	-0.02	
2.650	2.090	STIPPLING LINES	15.3	4.96	9	1900	4981	2.60	2.62	0.02	
1.400	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	19	11450	14533	1.33	1.28	-0.05	
7.570	5.050	AD-INSURANCE	10.5	4.41	1	100	480	5.05	4.80	-0.25	
1.720	2.900	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.6	0.00	4	5000	14555	2.98	2.98	-	
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.0	6.55	12	6400	10751	1.70	1.68	-0.02	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
4.450	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.6	2.68	74	156272	638431	4.18	4.10	-0.08	
4.140	2.710	JOR. PROSPERITY MINES	10.8	2.85	10	35344	137844	3.98	3.98	-	
7.050	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.7	2.95	1	2050	13838	6.75	6.75	-	
10.390	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.07	11	3532	35158	9.95	9.88	-0.07	
1.470	1.050	MOORE INVESTMENTS	10.8	8.00	1	150	158	1.30	1.25	-0.05	
3.260	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	10.6	0.00	7	1100	2156	1.95	1.97	0.02	
1.000	0.040	ARAB FRANCH. MGMT.	10.6	5.19	15	9226	35518	3.87	3.85	-0.02	
2.070	1.390	JOR. PAPER INDUST.	17.4	5.71	5	1100	1842	1.42	1.40	-0.02	
10.250	7.800	ARAB CHEM. DISTRI.	22.7	4.05	1	100	741	7.80	7.41	-0.39	
5.550	4.250	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	12.9	4.76	10	2518	13210	5.22	5.23	0.01	
0.960	0.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.8	0.00	1	300	153	0.51	0.51	-	
1.310	1.020	ARAB PAPER CO. TRD.	32.1	0.00	9	2904	3049	1.06	1.05	-0.01	
0.840	0.520	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	4	2480	1232	0.54	0.54	-	
1.460	1.050	AFRICAN PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	10	1850	1270	1.72	1.68	-0.04	
1.090	0.600	JOR. ROCKWELL INDUS.	18.0	0.00	7	3100	1834	0.62	0.59	-0.03	
2.980	2.000	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	18.0	0.00	1	300	900	0.02	0.00	-0.02	
2.730	2.130	NATL. CABLE WIRE-HPAC	43.9	0.00	1	300	819	2.85	2.73	-0.12	
1.050	0.870	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	16	6950	4061	1.61	1.58	-0.03	
1.570	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	15.3	0.00	8	4700	1915	1.45	1.43	-0.02	
2.560	1.410	UNIV. MOON INDUS.	7	0.00	9	2050	2931	1.45	1.43	-0.02	
1.420	1.130	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	15.1	8.93	50	18850	21297	1.13	1.12	-0.01	
1.500	1.300	NATL. CHEMICALS	14.2	4.70	8	2100	3125	1.48	1.45	-0.03	
1.230	0.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	24	13800	12045	0.88	0.87	-0.01	
2.090	1.510	EL-KAY READY WEAR	55.3	0.00	18	7800	12306	1.57	1.57	-	
1.130	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	9	22350	25479	1.14	1.14	-	
1.340	0.850	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.9	0.00	2	500	453	0.94	0.90	-0.04	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
160.34	129.00	INDEX	-0.87		325	303699	978991				
GRAND TOTAL											
160.34	129.00	INDEX	-0.87		325	303699	978991				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 04/06/1997											
740	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	12.8	0.00	17	34450	16334	4.48	4.48	-	
840	560	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	1	2000	360	0.69	0.68	-0.01	
790	370	ARAB FCM INVEST.	9	0.00	26	48000	24433	0.21	0.21	-	
890	730	AL-CHERO INV. 751	9	0.00	7	3204	1840	0.22	0.22	-	
620	200	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-VERCO	9	0.00	4	9200	2116	0.24	0.23	-0.01	
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MND.	9	0.00	10	9400	3076	0.34	0.34	-	
830	430	ARAB INTL. INV. 750	47.5	0.00	8	2043	2043	0.43	0.43	-	
780	400	NATL. MULTI-ENG. RAKCO	9	0.00	61	121750	71375	0.87	0.89	0.02	
990	900	READY MIX CONCRETE	13.5	0.00	1	200	188	0.92	0.94	0.02	
890	710	JORDAN STEEL	13.5	6.76	9	6750	5085	0.75	0.74	-0.01	
730	600	MID-EAST TRAV. 751	2	0.00	1	350	137	0.65	0.64	-0.01	
1.260	860	WILSON TRAMP 3 751	2	0.00	4	1150	734	0.89	0.89	-	
760	550	HAIT FEN 751	2	0.00	1	50	22	0.60	0.59	-0.01	
600	390	INDS. P. 751	25.9	0.00	6	3950	1685	0.41	0.42	0.01	
910	760	INDS. CERAMIC	22.3	0.00	4	1950	1609	0.83	0.83	-	
820	590	NATL. POLYTRIC	9	0.00	6	5600	3528	0.68	0.69	0.01	
1.000	810	NAT. ALUMINUM 751	9	0.00	8	5450	3250	0.84	0.85	0.01	
870	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	5.3	14.93	13	43000	23542	0.67	0.67	-	
GRAND TOTAL											
187	100804	INDEX	-0.48		586	437525	1291244				

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Men's Cologne and Aftershave

"This doesn't smell as good as it did in the magazine. It should smell like page 52 with a hint of pages 49 and 54."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CAMKS
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CALPEA
ROUPAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

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NBA panel recommends moving 3-point line back out

CHICAGO (R) — The NBA's competition committee recommended several rule changes including moving the 3-point line back out to its original, longer distance, the league announced Tuesday.

In the interest of promoting a more free-flowing game, the committee also recommended: allowing any type of defence on the strong side of the court prohibiting defenders from using their forearms to impede the progress of offensive players facing the basket and prohibiting players from calling time-out when above or beyond the out of bounds line.

The NBA board of governors, expected to vote following the NBA finals now underway between the Chicago Bulls and Utah Jazz, would have to approve any recommendation by a two-thirds majority.

The competition committee, consisting of representatives from all 29 teams, decided to move the distance for a 3-point shot back to 23 feet, 9 inches (7.24 metres) at the top of the key and 22 feet (6.71 metres) at the corners from its current distance of 22 feet all around.

The longer distance was in effect from the NBA's adoption of the 3-point shot in 1979 until the 1994-95 season,

when the current half-oval was put in effect.

The number of 3-point attempts rose almost every year under the longer distance, but leaped by more than 50 percent when the distance was shortened. The percentage of completions, which also generally inched up under the old distance, also rose significantly with the shorter distance.

Allowing any kind of defence on the strong side of the court — the side where the ball is — could reduce illegal defence calls caused by defenders getting caught in limbo between guarding their own men and double-teaming the ball.

The forearm rule continues a trend against physical defending that began when New York Knicks-style hand-checking was limited after the team rode its slowdown tactics to the NBA finals in 1994.

Under the fourth suggested new rule, a player would no longer be able to dive for a ball heading out of bounds and, in the split second before touching down outside the line, call time-out — and referees would not have to decide whether he had sufficient control of the ball for the time-out to be granted.

No glitz on media shy Utah Jazz

CHICAGO (R) — There's no glitz on the Utah Jazz. Their star guard doesn't have an agent and doesn't do commercials — Michael Jordan, are you listening? — and their coach would really rather not have to talk to the media.

John Stockton was asked why he had negotiated his own contract rather than hire an agent. "Agents have a different job than is my personality," Stockton said. "I want to stay true to my personality."

"I think that a lot of agents doing their job, they're seeking the best deal monetarily and I don't think doing that necessarily represents everything that the players think and feel, and that was more important to me."

Stockton — like his truck-driving, hunting and fishing power forward teammate Karl Malone — is comfortable with the low-key, family-oriented lifestyle he has found in his sparsely populated, strait-laced adopted home-state.

Stockton appears to feel that would be jeopardised if he sought the commercial endorsement deals available to him — even if not at Jordanesque \$100



Utah's Karl Malone

million saturation levels. Asked why he had not sought to do any advertisements, he replied simply: "I'm just not that comfortable with that life."

While probably every coach — even media-savvy Chicago Bulls' philosopher king Phil Jackson — would rather spend less time talking to the media, Jerry Sloan seems to speak from a

deeper region of the heart when he says so. "I don't like to do that stuff," said the Utah coach, a player for the Bulls long before their championship days.

"I don't like to talk to the press, it's just part of what my job entails. I never liked to talk to them when I played."

Asked why, he said: "I don't know what purpose it serves, tell me what purpose it serves."

When a reporter suggested that fans got their explanations of the game through the media, Sloan said: "They see the game."

Much appreciated as a straight talker by the press, Sloan told reporters, half jokingly: "I'm not going to give you more than yes or no most of the time. It's hard on me to talk."

Johnson's coach highly critical of Bailey camp

BLOOMINGTON (R) — Michael Johnson's coach said Tuesday that Canadian Donovan Bailey's coach and staff "were about as low as you can get" if they had ordered the world 100 metres record holder to go out fast and try to force Johnson to hurt himself in their 150-metre showdown.

"His (Bailey's) coach was quoted in a Toronto paper in detail as saying that what their game plan was," Clyde Hart, the head coach at Baylor University, said in an interview at the U.S. Collegiate Championships. "If that's the case, that's about as low as you can get."

Johnson severely pulled his left quadriceps muscle in the match race in Toronto on Sunday and Hart said it was highly unlikely that the double Olympic champion will run in next week's U.S.

Championships in Indianapolis.

"Right now I would think that it's going to be a month before he's back," Hart said.

"I don't think there's any realistic hope he will be able to run next week. He could not bend the leg Monday."

If Johnson does not compete in the U.S. Championships, he would be ineligible under U.S. rules to run in August's World Championships in Athens, U.S. track officials said.

Both Hart and Brad Hunt, Johnson's agent, said the 1996 Olympics star was "down" because of the injury and the treatment he received at Skydome after pulling up lame before the end of the race.

"If the opponent Michael had been competing against had been an axe mur-

derer, it would have been the same reception," Hart said. "Everytime his name was mentioned he was booed."

Said Hunt: "He's having a hard time looking at this right now."

"He's the one who did everything to keep the race on. On Saturday, the day before the race, when Donovan threatened to pull out, Michael was even willing to give him (Bailey) a one meter headstart ... Yet he's the one with the ice wrap, the one who's looking at missing the real event, the championship event."

But both said they would like to see more match races.

"The concept is good," Hart said. "It's just unfortunate that we did it in a setting where people obviously don't appreciate great athletes."

Al Wihdat announce today refusal to play Shield final

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The long awaited match of the Kingdom's Federation Shield between the two poles of Jordan's soccer scene, Al Wihdat and Al Faisali, seems unlikely to take place following the former's decision to declare themselves winner of the "unplayed" match, a club's spokesman said.

Khader Sowan, secretary-general of Al Wihdat Wednesday told the Jordan Times that a statement will be issued by his club Thursday (today) to make their stand clear and announce the club's official decision.

The ill-fated match was scheduled to take place May 26 but has been indefinitely postponed because of Al Faisali's decision not to play without foreign referees.

Faced with the controversy, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) postponed their decision on the issue and called for the general assembly of the JSF to meet and take the decision upon the request of Al Faisali.

However, according to the JSF's regulations, "if any team fails to show up at the scheduled time of the match they should be declared loser," Sowan noted.

"Despite that fact that we agreed to Al Faisali's request to enlist foreign referees, the match did not take place. We, therefore, are not responsible for this and we insist that the regulations be implemented," Sowan said in a telephone interview.

Sowan was referring to an article of the JSF's regulations that calls for the party who fails to show up at the final game of any national tournament to be declared loser by 3-0 result.

Al-Faisali refused to play the match.

"Al Faisali disobeyed the JSF's instructions. We will not play the final match because according to their rules we are the winner and our decision is final," Sowan declared.

He added that no club has the right to impose its decision on the JSF. While Al Faisali's had hinted to the JSF their insistence on foreign

referees since last season's heated Premier League clash of the top two teams, the JSF failed to take a decision to overcome the logjam since JSF rules bar the participation of foreign referees.

While the rival clubs met with JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein last week, the two sides did not reach an agreement to resolve the deadlock especially after Al Faisali's chairman, Sultan Udwan, requested that a final decision be adopted by the JSF general assembly meeting, slated for June 17.

Sowan said that Al Wihdat agreed in principal their rival's demand, but it was the JSF's duty to bring the foreign referees for the May 26 match on time — which they failed to accomplish. "What we are asking for now is to implement the JSF regulations," he added.

He said that contacts were made between Al Wihdat and the JSF's officials and the latter were informed by Al Wihdat's recent decision.

S. Korea wins opening match of Women's Asian Handball Championship

By Roufan Nahhas
and Khaled Harb
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Asian champs South Korea crushed Chinese Taipei 44-10 (23-5) in the opening match of the 6th Asian Women's Handball Championship which kicked off here Wednesday at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace.

Held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya Bint Al Hassan, the competition groups top teams including South Korea, Japan, China, Uzbekistan and Chinese Taipei. Kazakhstan declined participation for financial reasons.

The top three teams in the competition will qualify for the World Championship due to be held in August in Germany.

The opening ceremony

was attended by Minister of Youth Qassem Abu Ain, Director of Al Hussein Sports City Mamoun Nour Al Deen and ambassadors of the participating countries.

Chairman of the Jordan Handball Federation (JHF) Sari Hamdan expressed his gratitude to Princess Sumayya and the participating teams and said that the federation was looking forward for a successful competition.

Hamdan said that he

petition.

While the Kingdom is hosting the event, the Jordanian team will not take part in the competition. However, the national team is expected to gain valuable experience watching the teams in action and may have the chance to play some friendly matches against some of the visiting teams.

Hamdan said that he

take part in the 7th Asian Championship.

Japan's coach Shoichi Kashzuka expressed his delight of being part of the competition against top teams.

A key player in the South Korean team and a member of their Olympic team in Atlanta Kim Rang said that it was "great to be here."

"It feels great to be in Jordan with all my teammates," Kim told the Jordan Times.

The championship is sponsored by the Asian Handball Federation.

Jordan Television will transmit a live coverage of the matches and there will also be free admittance to the matches as a step to encourage more people to watch the game.

Uzbekistan and Japan met in Wednesday's late match.

Schedule of matches	
Thursday 5/6	Uzbekistan vs. Japan
Friday 6/6	Korea vs. China
Saturday 7/6	Taipei vs. China
Sunday 8/6	Uzbekistan vs. South Korea
Monday 9/6	Japan vs. South Korea
	Taipei vs. Uzbekistan
	China vs. Uzbekistan
	Japan vs. Taipei

Farmer-Patrick denies taking drugs

BLOOMINGTON (R) — Suspended U.S. women's hurdler Sandra Farmer-Patrick denied Tuesday she had ever taken performance-enhancing drugs and said the ban left her feeling like she "had been in jail."

Farmer-Patrick, U.S. distance star Mary Slaney and an unnamed athlete were suspended by the IAAF last weekend pending the conclusion of their U.S. hearings into alleged drug use.

"I have never taken any performance-enhancing drugs or any illegal substance," Farmer-Patrick said in a telephone interview from her home near Austin, Texas. "I have been unjustly accused."

U.S. Officials have prohibited the former U.S. women's 400-meter hurdles record holder from competing since April while a hearing was being conducted on a drug test that showed her testosterone-to-epitestosterone level to be higher than the allowable 6-1, her husband, David, said.

But there has never been any written documentation that she was suspended, he said.

He also said the family had spent more than \$30,000 having tests conducted that proved his wife had a low epitestosterone level, which would make her testosterone-to-epitestosterone ratio look

higher.

"It has been a very stressful time," said Farmer-Patrick, noting that her small daughter had seen her cry several times because of the stress.

But she said she would not compete until the IAAF lifted the ban against her. "I do not want to have it affect my competitors, where they could be suspended under IAAF rules for competing against me," she said.

Meanwhile, Slaney's attorneys have asked the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) to declare that the testosterone rules of the IAAF and IOC discriminate against women and therefore would be in violation

of the U.S. Amateur Sports Act, a federal law.

"The ratio hasn't been validated for women," said Jim Coleman, a Duke University law professor. "It is based on research done on men. What research has been done on women indicates that the rule is not valid."

He said the USOC had asked U.S. athletics officials to respond to the request by Friday.

Coleman said he also had asked the USOC to ask the U.S.A. Track and Field federation to request the IAAF to withdraw its suspension.

MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

American League

Oakland	9	Detroit	8
Seattle	6	Toronto	3
Chicago	9	Cleveland	5
Baltimore	7	New York	5
Milwaukee	6	Boston	4
Minnesota	5	Texas	4
Kansas City	5	Anaheim	2

National League

San Francisco	9	Florida	1
Houston	4	Los Angeles	3
St. Louis	15	Colorado	4
Pittsburgh	3	Chicago	1
Cincinnati	3	Philadelphia	2
San Diego	5	Atlanta	2
New York	2	Montreal	1

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PHILADELPHIA "2"

BALTO

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15

DANTE'S PEAK

Shows: 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Antonio Banderas... in

TOO MUCH

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

101 DALMATIANS

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THE ENGLISH PATIENT

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CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan...in

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Monica Seles

Seles has her mind somewhere else

PARIS (AP) — Monica Seles didn't rejoice after reaching the French Open semifinals for the first time in five years. Her thoughts were elsewhere.

Seles was thinking about her coach and father Karolj, who couldn't join her in Paris this year because he is ill with stomach cancer. But that doesn't stop the two from talking on the phone every day.

"Morning, afternoon, evening — almost that sequence," Seles said after her 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 quarter-final victory Tuesday over Mary Joe Fernandez.

"I call him before the match and after the match and try to keep things as normal as possible."

She said her father helps her, even from a distance.

"He just tells me to play my game," Seles said. "It's so difficult. It's really hard to go out there and feel comfortable about playing my game, putting that pressure on the opponent. He's really trying to get me to do that, to play as I do in practices."

Seles wasn't pleased with her performance against Fernandez. She played a

poor first set, then had to come back in the third after wasting a 4-2 lead and allowing Fernandez to go up 5-4.

"I won the match but I won the match on pure luck," Seles said. "It wasn't that I won from my shots when it counted. That's why I was not that happy."

Still, the victory allowed Seles to regain the French Open semifinals for the first time since 1992, the year she won her third consecutive title at Roland Garros.

Seles missed the following three years after her stabbing in 1993. She returned last year but lost in the quarter-finals to Jana Novotna.

Seles will meet top-seeded Martina Hingis in Thursday's semifinals. Amanda Coetzer meets Iva Majoli in the other semifinal.

Seles has lost all three of her previous matches to Hingis, including in finals this year in Key Biscayne and Hilton Head.

"When I go into the match, I'm not going to think about it," she said. "That's the past."

Graf slumps, raising questions about career

PARIS (AP) — For the first time in 10 years, Steffi Graf is not among the top two players in the world.

The way she is playing now, it may be a while before she gets to No. 1 again. If ever.

"It's just the state I'm in at the moment — I don't seem to have any self-confidence when I go out there," Graf said after numbing out from the French Open, beaten 6-1, 6-4 by Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals Tuesday.

Graf has won this Grand Slam tournament five times, including the last two years. With 21 Grand Slam titles, she is by far the leading active player on the tour.

But her defeat Tuesday, coupled by Monica Seles' 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Mary Joe Fernandez, dropped her to No. 3 in the WTA Tour rankings, with Seles moving up to No. 2.

Martina Hingis, the 16-year-old sensation who is unbeaten this year, seems to have reserved the No. 1 ranking for a long time to come.

Hingis remained on course for her second straight Grand Slam by ousting doubles partner Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-2, 6-2.

In the women's semis Thursday, Hingis will face Seles, while Coetzer will face Iva Majoli, the seventh-seed Croatian who beat Ruxandra Dragomir 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Tuesday's defeat marked the first time since 1986 that Graf has failed to reach at least the semifinals at the French Open, and the first time since 1985 she has lost so early in consecutive Grand Slams. Graf will be 28 on June 14 and her career appears at a cross-roads.

She was beaten by Coetzer in the fourth round of the Australian Open, halting Graf's Grand Slam match winning streak at 45.

The 5-foot-2 (1.57-metre) Coetzer has become Graf's "bogeywoman," as the South Africa said.

Coetzer demolished Graf 6-0, 6-1 in the quarter-finals of the German Open in Berlin in May, Graf's first tournament after a three-month break following left-knee surgery.

The German never looked convincing in her first four matches here and against Coetzer, her game completely collapsed.

"I was really nervous starting off the match, making a lot of mistakes, feeling very uncomfortable, unsure of my shots," Graf said.

Of the 78 points Coetzer won in the one hour, 32-minute match, 64 came on unforced errors by Graf.

Graf was unable to explain her slump.

"I wish I knew that right now," she said. "Obviously, I don't. I have no idea."

"I think anybody's career you go through stages. I've been in it a few times too. It's going to take a while to get it back." Graf was not the only champion to tumble out. Men's champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who never believed he could retain the title, went out against Gustavo Kuerten, a 66th-ranked Brazilian without a title to his name.

Kuerten won 6-2, 5-7, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4 and will next meet another outsider, qualifier Filip Dewulf of Belgium.

Dewulf beat Magnus Norman — conqueror of Pete Sampras — 6-2, 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-3.

That means that at least one unseeded man will make it to the final as the other semifinal berths were decided Wednesday when No. 16 Sergi Bruguera — the lowest seed — beat Morocco's Hicham Arazi, and Patrick Rafter upset Galo Blanco.



Patrick Rafter of Australia reacts after winning his match against Galo Blanco of Spain in the quarter-final of the French Open. Rafter defeated Blanco 6-3 7-6 6-3 (Reuters photo)



Galo Blanco of Spain holds his chain in his mouth during his match against Patrick Rafter of Australia in the quarter-final of the French Open at Roland Garros stadium, June 4 (Reuters photo)

Bruguera ends Arazi's dream, Rafter reaches French Open semis

PARIS (AFP) — Spain's Sergi Bruguera, the last-surviving seed in the men's singles at the French Open, reached the semi-finals Wednesday when he defeated 55th-ranked Hicham Arazi of Morocco 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in 2hrs 16mins on a sunny Roland Garros centre-court.

Bruguera, the 1993 and 1994 champion and promoted to 16th seed at the last minute this year after Sweden's Thomas Enqvist withdrew from the event, now plays Australian Patrick Rafter for a place in Sunday's final.

Rafter earlier reached his first-ever Grand Slam tournament semi-final by beating Spain's Galo Blanco 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) 6-3. He is the first Australian to reach the last-four in Paris since Phil Dent back in 1977.

Arazi's 'giantkilling' exploits finally came to an end as old hand Bruguera



Morocco's Hicham Arazi

turned in a performance which left the Moroccan out of his depth on the packed centre court.

Bruguera said he appreciated his run of success here all the more as he has had a long and hard fight to come back from torn ankle liga-

ments sustained in December 1995.

Last year, he hardly won a match and dropped down to 81st in the rankings.

"At the start of the tournament I didn't have any confidence in myself. But I made a big effort to come back."

Bruguera said of his opponent: "He is one of the nicest players on the tour with enormous potential. And he has been playing better and better."

"He will be coming to train in Barcelona later this year."

What they're saying at Roland Garros

• **Grandma knows best:** Flamboyant Gustavo Kuerten may have knocked out defeated champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov to become the first Brazilian ever to reach a Grand Slam semi-final in the Open era. But it's his grandma who's calling the shots for the 20-year-old tournament revelation. "She's studied every player. She knows Becker, Sampras, Kafelnikov..." said Kuerten after his run of success. "When I talk to her she says — 'come on, this guy you have to play like this'..."

• **Success is music to Dewulf's ears:** Rock fan Filip Dewulf is delighted with his run from the qualifying event to the men's singles semi-finals. His success is literally music to the Belgian's ears as he can now indulge his hobby. "I don't know how much I am going to earn. But I will do the same as usual with the money. I will buy compact discs..." Having already pocketed some \$170,000 since arriving in Paris, Dewulf could now go out and buy around 10,000 cds... although he might also have to buy a new house to store them all.

• **Martina hunts Graf record:** World No.1 Martina Hingis, having already emulated namesake Martina Navratilova's achievement of recording 36 straight wins from the start of a season in reaching the women's semifinals, is now hunting down the best-start ever. Deposed French Open champion Graf holds the all-time record for the best start to any year in the Open era, having run up 45 victories on a roll in 1987.

• **Graf goes to the seaside:** Beaten champion Steffi Graf has decided to play at Eastbourne following her shock defeat by Amanda Coetzer in the women's singles quarter-finals here. Graf, shell-shocked after her "terrible match" with her South African "jinx" opponent, Graf, who arrived to defend her French crown after a long injury absence, says she wants as much match practice as possible before going onto Wimbledon where twelve months ago she won the singles crown for an eighth time.

• **McEnroe stars in soccer show:** Former great John McEnroe swapped his racket and pulled on his football boots Tuesday evening as a team of French tennis players, which included Yannick Noah, took on a world XI at the Parc Des Princes. McEnroe caused the French problems down the left wing where he came in for Brazilian Gunga.

vo Kuerten, who would have played had he not reached the men's singles semi-final. The match finished in an entertaining 4-4 draw. Football apart — McEnroe, winner of seven Grand Slam titles, has had a busy time during the championships. In between spells of television commentary on tournament matches — the former scourge of umpires has been nipping off to an outside court for an hour's tennis. For the small pockets of fans who spotted him, the memories came flooding back.

• "I just try to copy a little bit from each good player...serve like Goran (Ivanisevic)...hit forehands like Courier...Now I have my style also..." — Brazilian underdog Gustavo Kuerten after reaching the men's semifinals by beating defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

• "I shall need two weeks off... so that I can see myself playing tennis and watch my matches here..." — Belgian qualifier and semi-finalist Filip Dewulf on his plans for the immediate future.

• "I thought — 'either I start to play or I'm going home'. After that I played an unbelievable match..." — World No. 1 Martina Hingis on her shaky start before beating doubles partner Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the singles quarter-finals.

• "We deserve to be on centre-court. We have great quarter-finals. This is a little bit upsetting for the players. Hopefully it will change..." — semi-finalist Iva Majoli on the decision by organisers to outlaw all of the women's quarter-finals to the Suzanne Lenglen showcourt.

• "It was strange. In the matches before I didn't do one foot-fault, then I make like 15 in the quarter-finals..." — Sweden's Magnus Norman who went out of the tournament in the quarter-finals to Belgian qualifier Filip Dewulf.

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New Israeli Labour Party leader vows to push for early elections

TEL AVIV (R) — Former army chief Ehud Barak, triumphant in a contest for the leadership of Israel's main opposition Labour Party, vowed Wednesday to push for early elections to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Barak, an advocate of trading occupied land-for-peace, takes over as Labour chairman from former Prime Minister Shimon Peres who lost national elections a year ago to the right-wing Netanyahu.

"We'll do our best to make it a little bit earlier, maybe a year or two earlier," Mr. Barak told Reuters when asked if he would push for early elections as he waded through a jubilant crowd at Labour headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Israel's next general election is set for 2000 but Mr. Netanyahu's coalition, battered in its first year in power by crises in Middle East peacemaking and a corruption scandal, has only a slim majority in parliament, holding 66 of 120 seats.

Mr. Barak swept to victory with 51 per cent of the vote in an internal Labour poll Tuesday, official results showed Wednesday after 95 per cent of the ballots were counted. His closest rival won 28 per cent.

"I wish all the candidates success and hope Labour voters pick an opposition leader who will remain such

for many years," Mr. Netanyahu had said ahead of the Labour primary.

Hundreds of supporters greeted Mr. Barak, 55, at his offices near Tel Aviv after exit polls pointed to a landslide victory, chanting "look who's coming, it's the next prime minister."

"This is a first step towards hope, the first step on the path to victory which will return us to the leadership of this country," Mr. Barak said.

The Labour primary was a milestone contest that marked a passing of the political torch from Mr. Peres, 73, and his slain predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Netanyahu edged out Mr. Peres in an upset election victory in 1996, in part by characterising the Nobel Peace laureate as soft on security. Opinion polls have shown Mr. Barak neck-and-neck with Mr. Netanyahu, 47.

About 70 per cent of the 167,000 registered Labour members cast ballots, Labour Party election chairman Eli Dayan said.

Mr. Barak beat out Yossi Beilin, an architect of Labour peace policies and Mr. Peres's protégé, Shlomo Ben Ami, a Moroccan-born novice politician with roots both in academia and among the disadvantaged, and Ephraim Sneh a former health minister.

At Labour headquarters, the four contenders joined hands for the cameras in a show of solidarity against Mr. Netanyahu.

Barak would beat Netanyahu if elections held today: poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ehud Barak, the new leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, would beat Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if national elections were held today, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday.

The survey published in the Yediot Aharanot newspaper forecast that Mr. Barak, 55, would win 44.7 per cent of the vote compared to 39.3 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu, with 8.6 per cent undecided and the rest saying they would vote for neither man.

The next general elections in Israel are scheduled for the year 2000.

The Yediot poll was conducted among 502 people after Mr. Barak's victory became apparent late Tuesday. It had a margin of error of four per cent.

the four contenders joined hands for the cameras in a show of solidarity against Mr. Netanyahu.

"I want to wish Ehud Barak success... first of all to lead the Labour Party, afterward to lead the opposition and after that to lead the government of Israel. I very much hope as soon as possible," Mr. Beilin said standing beside Mr. Barak.

The heavily favoured Mr. Barak has cast himself as heir to Rabin's warrior-turned-peacemaker mantle. He will be only the third Labour Party leader since 1973.

At a news conference Monday outlining his policy, Mr. Barak said Palestinians must have the right of self-determination which could lead to statehood on some of the land Israel captured in the 1967

Middle East war.

Mr. Barak joined Labour two years ago after shedding the uniform of Israel's most decorated soldier. Long before entering public life, Mr. Barak was a near-legendary military figure, at one point serving as Mr. Netanyahu's commander in an elite commando unit.

"I congratulated Ehud on his victory and I congratulated Yossi on his results... Now we must move forward," Mr. Peres said.

Rabin's widow beamed at Labour Party headquarters even as a tearful party activist, remembering her husband, embraced her.

"Besides respecting him and believing in his intellectual capacity, I voted for him because I see him as the winner and I want Labour to win, win, win," Leah Rabin told reporters.

Egyptians finally admit defeat 30 years after the six-day war

CAIRO (AFP) — Thirty years on, Egyptians have finally come to terms with the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, admitting defeat at Israeli hands rather than the "military setback" announced by then-President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

On June 9, 1967, a grim Nasser announced to the nation that "our armed forces have suffered a military setback."

Four days after the start of the war, Israeli fighter bombers had succeeded in destroying 80 per cent of Egypt's aircraft even before they left the ground. "Thirty years have passed and we have covered up our defeat by calling it a military setback," the government weekly Rose Al Youssef said Monday in one of several reports dedicated to the war.

For the first time the press says it is facing up to reality and casting aside the bitterness which filled analysis and reports on the war over the past three decades.

"There has been a lot of disillusionment for too long and even today we continue to conceal the truth, but we have now realised that we must face up to it rather than stick our head in the sand," said Mohammad Sid Ahmad, a top political commentator for the Al Ahram government newspaper.

"Defeat taught us that we did not know the truth, but only the truth that we wanted to know," Mr. Sid Ahmad said.

On the eve of the war, Arab leaders repeatedly declared that their armed forces had the upper hand and pledged that they would be capable of crushing the "Zionist enemy" should a conflict break out.

Such statements only served to make the bitter pill of defeat harder to swallow.

To this day the Egyptian people, half of whom were not born when war broke out on June 5, 1967, cannot help crying when they see the historic blockbuster film Al-Afsoor (The Sparrow) by Cannes award-winning director Youssef Shahine.

The tear-jerker scene shows Nasser announcing the "setback" to an incredulous crowd.

Officials however continue to absolve Nasser of any involvement in the defeat, with responsibility falling on the shoulders of his vice-president and commander-in-chief Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, who committed suicide in September 1967.

"On June 2, 1967, Nasser gathered the country's senior

officials, including Marshal Amer, and told them clearly that the enemy would launch an air attack on June 5," former chief of staff General Mohammad Fawzi told AFP.

"Amer was not convinced and did not think it necessary to warn the army," said Mr. Fawzi, who replaced Amer at the head of the army and was war minister from 1967 to 1970.

"This negligence helped the enemy to take Egypt by surprise and the Marshal was able to see with his own eyes the destruction of 80 per cent of the aircraft during an inspection."

Barak rejects idea of national unity government

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ehud Barak rejected calls Wednesday for the creation of a national unity government bringing his opposition group into Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition.

"I don't see any reason to form such a government," Mr. Barak told Israel army radio the day after Labour members elected him party chairman.

Mr. Barak, 55, had for months fought against attempts by previous Labour leader Shimon Peres to entice Mr. Netanyahu into a right-left coalition that could better lead peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Mr. Barak feared such a government would permit Mr. Peres to retain control over the Labour Party even after his term as chairman ended.

With Mr. Barak's ascendancy to the leadership, certain party members and elements of Mr. Netanyahu's fractious coalition have resurrected calls for a national unity administration.

tion tour of the Sinai," Mr. Fawzi added.

Mr. Sid Ahmad blamed the past mistakes on the "absolute rule within Amer's army."

For Mr. Fawzi, "the 1967 war is over but not the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Sid Ahmad agreed. "The war continues to have repercussions to this day and we can therefore call it a war forever," he said, referring to strained Arab-Israeli ties linked to failure to advance on the Palestinian-Israeli peace track.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and to recover all its territory which had been occupied by Israel in 1967, but bilateral relations have failed to develop.

Egyptian public opinion continues to be hostile towards Israel and this has been compounded by Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories and the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process.

The Egyptian government press frequently publishes anti-Israeli comments and the tone has been harsher since right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was elected one year ago.

Israeli army pressured politicians to go to war

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Thirty years after the June 1967 war, new revelations show that Israeli generals exerted considerable pressure to push their government to go into battle.

Their role was not limited to unleashing the war. Recently published documents show that generals on the ground made the most important decisions concerning goals and future ceasefire lines, without taking

after a massive deployment of Egyptian troops in the Sinai and Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser's blockade of the strait of Tiran, cutting off the Jewish State's access to the Red Sea, which Israel considered a "casus belli," or reason for war.

During the meeting, the generals drew an alarmist picture. They said Israel could not remain on a war footing indefinitely and that the risk of an Arab attack was increasing every hour with the Jordanian-Egyptian alliance.

The generals even accused the government of weakness and of doubting the military's strength.

"It wasn't, strictly speaking, a 'generals' revolt,' but we convinced the prime minister that he had to strike first because otherwise, we would suffer considerable losses," said reserve General Yeshayahu Gavish, who was then chief of the southern front.

The decision to attack Syria was only made overnight from June 8 to 9, toward the end of the six-day war, which started on June 5. Gen. Dayan had previously accused other ministers and generals of harbouring expansionist aims toward Syria.

"You want to push back the border with Syria to protect our villages (bombarded by the Syrian military), but this type of argument will push us to make new conquests."

"I don't think the Arab World will accept it, and I don't think that justifies an operation," General Dayan said in a government protocol.

Moshe Dayan, who opposed conquering the Golan, finally gave the green light when he found out that Egypt was demanding a ceasefire and that the war was going to stop in a few hours," said researcher Mati Maisel of Tel Aviv University.

Mr. Maisel said the generals on the ground decided to take the entire Golan.

Nine years later, the one-eyed general regretted his choice: "I should have prevented this, because the Syrians weren't threatening us at the time," Gen. Dayan said.

In 1981, Israel annexed the heights and today, the removal of the plateau to Syria is the main obstacle to the conclusion of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement.



IS FIRST JORDANIAN FEMALE CAB DRIVER STILL ON THE ROAD? Myassar Abu Al Hawa made the news when she became the first Jordanian taxi driver to hit the streets of Amman. Taxi Abdul Hamid, the company she was affiliated with told the Jordan Times that she quit their office. Has she quit the business? (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

Pink, red and green: New French power-sharing cabinet announced

PARIS (AFP) — A new left-wing French government that will share power with Conservative President Jacques Chirac was announced here on Wednesday featuring communists, socialists and an ecologist.

Key posts were taken by members of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Socialist Party.

Hubert Vedrine, one-time spokesman for the late President Francois Mitterrand, was named foreign minister, former socialist industry minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who fathered French Socialists' plans to create 700,000 jobs for young people, was given the finance ministry while Socialist Senator Alain Richard took the defence ministry.

Presidential Secretary-General Dominique de Villepin, who is said to have fathered Mr. Chirac's disastrous plan to call early elections, announced the new government in the courtyard of the Elysee Palace.

Mr. Jospin chose the ministers during three days of negotiations with the leaders of a left-wing coalition that won the early general elections last Sunday and after discussions Wednesday with Mr. Chirac, who retains control over foreign and defence policy.

Mr. Chirac, whose gamble in calling early elections on April 21 backfired with the rout of his Conservative majority, was also concerned by the justice ministry nomination.

His Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party is being investigated for fake invoicing and illegal party financing by Paris city hall, where Mr. Chirac was mayor for many years.

The justice ministry was taken by Elisabeth Guigou, a 50-year-old former minister for European affairs.

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, a former socialist minister turned leader of a small Eurosceptic party, was named Wednesday as France's new

interior minister

The 58-year-old was three times a minister under president Francois Mitterrand, but resigned the defence portfolio in January 1991 during the Gulf war over disagreement with French participation in the anti-Iraq coalition.

After campaigning for a "no" vote in the 1992 referendum on the Maastricht treaty, Mr. Chevènement set up his anti-Europe, anti-Euro Mouvement Des Citoyens (citizens' movement).

Eight women were in the new government, including Martine Aubry, daughter of former European commission President Jacques Delors, at the labour ministry. Five women were named as full ministers and three as junior ministers.

Mayor of Strasbourg Catherine Trautmann was named minister of culture and communication while green leader Dominique Voynet became environment and regional development minister.

U.S. to support renewal of Iraq oil-for-food deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will support renewal of the United Nations' oil-for-food programme for Iraq, the State Department said Tuesday.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "has decided that the United States will support the renewal of U.N. Resolution 986 and that is the oil-for-food deal," spokeswoman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

The U.N. Security Council is due to vote on the renewal this week, probably Thursday, U.N. diplomats said.

The current deal, which expires on June 7, calls for \$2 billion worth of oil sales over six months so Baghdad can buy food and medicine for its people, suffering from sanctions imposed in August 1990 when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

"This agreement benefits the people of Iraq, as it should. It does not benefit in any way the government of Iraq, which does not deserve international support," Mr. Burns said.

U.N. Secretary General

Kofi Annan has recommended that the oil-for-food deal, which went into effect last December, be renewed for six months. It temporarily waives a U.N. ban on oil sales imposed after the invasion of Kuwait.

Most Security Council members have said they would like to see the agreement approved under current terms or even increased.

U.S. officials said they were working on a straightforward resolution, without complications, on rolling over the plan.

Is Algerian election milestone to peace?

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerians vote Thursday to elect a National People's Assembly that many hope will represent a decisive step away from five years of war against a stubborn insurgency.

Following three bomb attacks at the start of the week in Algiers that killed more than 20, President Liamine Zeroulou insisted Tuesday that the polls shall go ahead in the "utmost calm."

"These bands of criminals now operating in Algeria are marginalised. The Algerian state has all the means to combat them until they are totally annihilated," he said before heading home Wednesday from an African summit in Zimbabwe.

In a massive show of force, the entire 123,700-strong armed forces, plus 200,000 local militia, are being deployed across North Africa's largest country — leading some analysts to suspect overkill.

"Either it's paranoia, or they want to control everything," one Westerner in Algiers said. But diplomats warn it would be a mistake to think that the vote will in itself end the violence, routinely blamed on scattered guerrilla

cells with no apparent sponsors from overseas.

"It's not going to bring peace any time quickly," a Western diplomat said. "But if it is a reasonably honest election, it will be an important step on a long road."

Thirty-nine parties and 7,747 candidates are in the running for the 380-seat legislature that is to last five years.

More than 200 observers from the United Nations, Organisation of African Unity and Arab League will monitor the poll. They are already travelling the country, in closely-guarded convoys.

But three parties matter most in this contest — including the one that has been outlawed in 1992 after it was poised to win the last, aborted legislative election, sparking off the violence.

Carrying the government's banner is the National Democratic Rally (RND), founded just four months ago by Mr. Zeroulou loyalists. It favours economic reform and a hardline against those it calls "cowardly terrorists."

Its main rival is the biggest legal Islamist Party, the Movement of Society for Peace (MSP), better known by its former name Hamas. Its leader Mahfoud Nahnah

is a former imam and fundamentalist who now preaches moderation.

Banned altogether is the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which rode a wave of mass discontent to near-victory before the military — still the real power brokers — cancelled the last polls and declared a state of emergency.

The ensuing strife has killed more than 60,000 people, according to Western estimates, many in gruesome village massacres, assassinations and indiscriminate bomb attacks.

In a statement sent to AFP in Bonn this week, the FIS leadership in exile denounced the latest bomb attacks and called again on Algerians to boycott the election.

It insists that the way out of the cycle of violence is for Mr. Zeroulou to open talks with it, ideally with mediation by concerned European governments.

But diplomats suspect the FIS today little resembles the well-oiled machine that it was in the early 1990s.

"It's less of a structured party, with less of an ability to take decisions," a Western expert on Algeria said.



Spurned husband burned joint savings — or did he?

LONDON (R) — A 62-year-old man took revenge on his estranged wife after she refused to consider reconciliation by burning most of their life savings in his back garden. Raymond Orton told a court he withdrew 100,000 pounds cash from a joint account held with his wife Brenda, 61, and set fire to it in a dustbin. "I got a big tin, put some newspaper in, set light to that and just slung the money on," Orton said. He is charged with breaching pledges not to dispose of any joint assets from the marriage. But the judge hearing the case on Monday said he doubted the story and ordered further inquiries.

Algeria's mobile voting booths hunt desert voters

ALGIERS (R) — Trucks equipped as mobile ballot stations set off before sunrise in Algeria's vast Sahara desert in pursuit of nomadic voters. Algeria's weather service forecast daytime temperatures rising to around 40 degrees Celsius as the trucks left, equipped with ballot boxes, food, water and communications. The Sahara nomads, little affected by the violence that has shaken the north of the country, started voting on Monday, ahead of Thursday's general election so that their results can be collated. The official news agency APS said earlier that thousands were voting at six mobile "caravans" crisscrossing the 8,170-sq. km Ghardaia region. Other trucks were scouring isolated regions, and two caravans of 40 vehicles had left from Tindouf in the desert south at the weekend to serve distant localities.

Wrangles hit African first ladies' club

HARARE (R) — Wrangles have hit a club of first ladies from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) established just weeks ago to help promote peace and unity. Zimbabwe state news agency Zina reported that there were disagreements over the chair of the Africa First Ladies peace mission, held by Nigerian first lady Maryam Abacha, wife of military strongman Sani Abacha. It said some first ladies, including Nana Rawlings of Ghana, accused Abacha of hijacking the cause to promote the interests of her husband's military regime. Abacha denied the charge, saying, "I am not personalising anything. I am even trying to rotate the leadership in the same manner as the OAU chairmanship." "Even at yesterday's (Monday) meeting I asked what the other ladies wished to do about the chairmanship and as you noticed, they did not want to talk which means they are happy," Rawlings alleged Abacha failed to arrange a meeting to elect office bearers.

Mobutu general filled home with magic charms — TV

KINSHASA (R) — Magic charms including dead snakes, tortoises and toads were found at the home of one of ousted President Mobutu Sese Seko's top generals, state television in the Democratic Republic of Congo said. The television showed rows of jars filled with what it described as magic charms, known locally as Gris-Gris, in the luxurious villa that belonged to General Baramoto Kpama, who once commanded the feared civil guard. "It is this that gave the general his power and in this manner that he believed he could keep his hold over the people," the television said in the capital Kinshasa. Mobutu, who sometimes consulted magic men and soothsayers, was driven from office last month by Kabila's alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo.